



10c

52 BIG PAGES

FEB. MAR.
NO. 69

Featuring
**"The
KING
of the
CATS!"**

WITH BATMAN AND
ROBIN IN OUR POWER,
CATWOMAN, WE TWO
CAN RULE AS KING
AND QUEEN OF THE
UNDERWORLD!



BULLY says: "BE YOURSELF-- YOUR BEST SELF!"

MY, WHAT A CHANGE IN YOUNG BOB HUNTER!

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT'S THE SAME BOY, MISS BROWN! ONLY A MONTH AGO, HE WAS SO UNPLEASANT AND SLOPPY NOBODY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO HIM!

AND WAS HE MISERABLE ABOUT IT, TOO... I REMEMBER THAT NIGHT A MONTH AGO AT OUR FIRST BIG SCHOOL AFFAIR...

I DON'T SEE YOU DANCING, BOB. WHY DON'T--

AW, I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! WHO WANTS TO DANCE? THAT'S FOR SISSIES!

HMM... THAT KIDS MAKING LIFE MISERABLE FOR OTHERS-- AND HIMSELF! SOMEBODY OUGHT TO TIP HIM OFF...

"I DECIDED TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE JOB MYSELF-- AND I TALKED TO HIM LIKE A DUTCH UNCLE!"

LOOK, BOB, YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY-- A LOT OF FELLOWS GO THROUGH THE STAGE YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. YOU'RE JUST NOT SURE OF YOURSELF-- SO YOU'RE DEFYING EVERYBODY!

'YOU'RE RUDE TO PEOPLE AND YOUR APPEARANCE IS ENOUGH TO KEEP ANY GIRL A MILE AWAY FROM YOU.' LOOK AT YOURSELF! HAIR UNCOMBED, FINGERNAILS DIRTY, SUIT UNPRESSED... YOU'RE A NICE KID, BOB-- BUT YOU DON'T GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE!

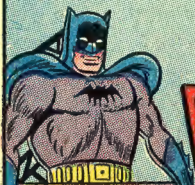
YOU CAN BUY A LIFETIME TICKET TO FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES AND **SELF-CONFIDENCE**, IF YOU TRY BEING YOURSELF-- YOUR **BEST SELF**. AND THAT MEANS **LOOKING** YOUR BEST AND REMEMBERING THAT **GOOD MANNERS** MEANS JUST BEING COURTEOUS AND THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS!

EULP! I SURE DID A GOOD JOB OF CONVINCING BOB. HE'S DANCING WITH MY GIRL, SUSIE, NOW!

THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH LEADING NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER



ON THE SCREEN
TODAY!
STARTLING
EXPOSE
THE SECRETS
OF
BATMAN
REVEALED!

SEE THE MYSTERIES OF
THE BAT-CAVE!
SEE THE CONTENTS OF
THE UTILITY BELT!
SEE HOW BATMAN
REALLY LIVES!
SEE THE REAL WORKINGS
OF THE BATARANG!
SEE THE IDENTITY OF
BATMAN EXPLAINED!
AND A 1001 OTHER
NEVER-BEFORE-REVEALED
TOP-SECRETS OF
**BATMAN AND
ROBIN!**

NOW
SHU
BAT
ROB

The BATMAN STORY

FEATURING
PHIL STONE AS BATMAN AND MEL KING AS ROBIN

COME ON,
ROBIN--THIS
WE HAVE TO
SEE!

TICKETS

ADULTS... 50
CHILDREN... 25

The BATMAN STORY

BOB
KANE

AND THIS YOU HAVE TO
SEE, TOO! BECAUSE IT'S THE
MOST STARTLING ADVENTURE
THAT EVER BEFELL THE
DYNAMIC DUO --
A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
THAT POPS OPEN THEIR
EYES AND THREATENS TO
DO AWAY WITH THEIR VERY
EXISTENCE! YOU DON'T
NEED A TICKET-- YOU'VE
GOT THE BEST SEAT IN
THE HOUSE -- SO SETTLE
BACK AND ENJOY EVERY
MOMENT OF...

"The
**BATMAN
EXPOSE!**"

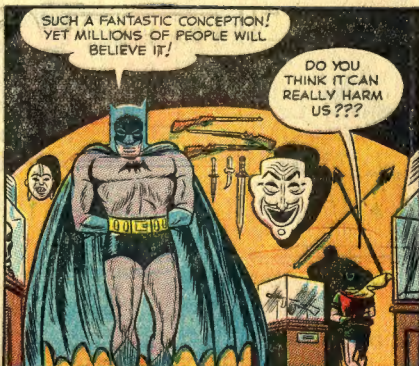


ONE NIGHT IN THE BAT-CAVE, WORLD-FAMOUS CRIME-SMASHERS **BATMAN AND ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, SUFFER A SUDDEN SHOCK...



WOW!
DID YOU
READ
THAT??

IT'S INCREDIBLE--
POSITIVELY
INCREDIBLE,
ROBIN!



SUCH A FANTASTIC CONCEPTION!
YET MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL
BELIEVE IT!

DO YOU
THINK IT CAN
REALLY HARM
US???

WHAT WRITINGS ARE THESE
THAT SO DISTURB THE DYNAMIC
DUO?? AND WHAT STRANGE
STROKE OF FATE HAS COME
SO SUDDENLY OUT OF THE
BLUE??-FOR THE ANSWERS,
WE MUST GO BACK A FEW
WEEKS IN TIME--BACK TO A
DAY WHEN BRUCE (BATMAN)
WAYNE AND HIS WARD DICK
(ROBIN) GRAYSON RECEIVE
A VISITOR IN THE WAYNE
MANSION...

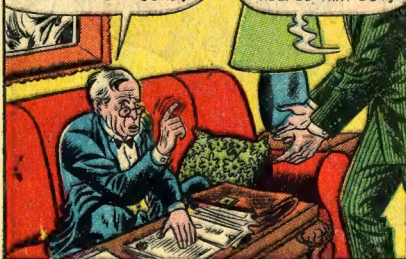


WHY I EVER TOOK THE JOB AS
BRUCE WAYNE'S LAWYER AND
INVESTMENT COUNSELOR I'LL
NEVER KNOW! BRUCE--I'VE
NEWS FOR YOU--**NOW**
YOU'RE A **MOVIE**
PRODUCER!!

EASY,
HASKINS--
EASY! WHAT'S
ALL **THIS**
ABOUT?

AGAINST MY ADVICE--
AS USUAL-- YOU INVESTED
IN LARRY GREENE'S APEX
CORPORATION! WELL--
LARRY GREENE IS BANK-
RUPT--AND THE WHOLE
OUTFIT IS NOW YOURS!

BUT LARRY WAS
A GOOD FRIEND
OF MINE! HE ORGAN-
IZED APEX TO PRO-
DUCE MOVIES--HE
NEEDED MONEY, SO I
HELPED HIM OUT!



WELL, THE MONEY'S GONE!
AND GREENE WON'T ASK FOR
MORE. HE'S TAKEN A JOB,
DOWN IN SOUTH AMERICA,
SO THAT HE CAN PAY YOU
BACK. MEANWHILE, **YOU**
OWN A STUDIO--IF YOU
CAN CALL IT THAT!

THANKS,
HASKINS--I
WOULDN'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO WITH-
OUT YOU!



AND WHEN THE LAWYER
HAS DEPARTED...

TOO BAD ABOUT LARRY!
BUT OF COURSE, I CAN'T
BE BOTHERED WITH A
MOVIE STUDIO! I'LL
HAVE HASKINS SELL THE
WHOLE BUSINESS
TOMORROW!

GOOD IDEA!
WE HAVE
PLENTY TO KEEP
US BUSY AS
BATMAN AND
ROBIN!

BUT NEXT DAY,
AS BRUCE AND
DICK INSPECT
THE ILL-FATED
GOTHAM CITY
MOVIE STUDIOS...

SAM COURTNEY--
THE MOVIE
DIRECTOR! I
RECOGNIZED
YOU RIGHT
AWAY!

I'LL GET RIGHT DOWN
TO BRASS TACKS, MR. WAYNE.
I UNDERSTAND YOU PLAN
TO GET RID OF THIS
MOVIE STUDIO. IF THAT
HAPPENS, SIR, 150
PEOPLE WILL BE THROWN
OUT OF WORK!



150 PEOPLE. I
HADN'T THOUGHT
ABOUT IT IN THAT
LIGHT...

SIR, WE WERE READY TO ROLL
ON WHAT I THINK IS A CORKING
GOOD PICTURE! I HAVE THE
SCRIPT HERE-- I'D LIKE YOU TO
READ IT! IT COST \$100,000!
BUT IT'S WORTH IT!

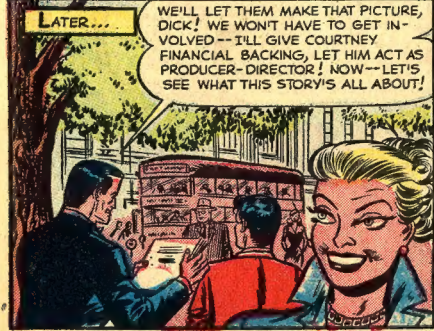
LEAVE THE SCRIPT WITH
ME, MR. COURTNEY! I'LL
READ IT--AND MAYBE WE
CAN SALVAGE SOMETHING
OUT OF ALL THIS MESS!

THANK YOU,
SIR! I KNEW
MY PLEA
WOULDN'T
FALL ON DEAF
EARS!



LATER...

WE'LL LET THEM MAKE THAT PICTURE,
DICK! WE WON'T HAVE TO GET IN-
VOLVED-- I'LL GIVE COURTNEY
FINANCIAL BACKING, LET HIM ACT AS
PRODUCER-DIRECTOR! NOW--LET'S
SEE WHAT THIS STORY'S ALL ABOUT!



WELL, OF ALL THINGS!!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
THIS??

THE BATMAN
STORY...

AN ORIGINAL
SCREENPLAY
BY
W.W. HAMMOND



AND SO IT IS THAT LATER, WHEN THE BUSY LAWYERS HAVE HAD TIME TO READ THE SCRIPT, THEY ARE THUNDERSTRUCK BY ITS IMPLICATIONS...

WHAT AN IMAGINATION THIS WRITER HAS! HIS CONCEPT OF HOW BATMAN OPERATES IS STAGGERING! IT'S FULL OF FLAWS--YET I DON'T THINK IT CAN HURT US!

THEN YOU'LL GIVE YOUR BACKING TO THE PICTURE?



YES--BUT THAT'S ALL! I WANT TO STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM THIS WRITER'S PIPE-DREAM AS I CAN!



BUT FATE IS STRANGE--AND UNRELENTING! FOR, A FEW DAYS LATER, IN PRODUCER-DIRECTOR SAM COURTNEY'S OFFICE...

WE'RE DONE, CHIEF! GANGLAND HAS TOLD US TO LAY OFF, OR ELSE! SEEMS THE STORY TIPS OFF TOO MANY OF THEIR SECRETS! THEY'VE THREATENED BODILY HARM IF WE GO AHEAD!

NONSENSE!! I WON'T BE SCARED OFF BY RUFFIANS! WE'LL GO AHEAD, EVEN IF WE NEED POLICE PROTECTION!



BUT AS DAYS PASS...

BUT, SAM! NOBODY WANTS THE BATMAN

ROLE! THEY'RE FRIGHTENED! I'VE TRIED EVERY LIKELY CANDIDATE!

THEN TRY MORE! TRY MORE! WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS PICTURE ROLLING!



THEN ONE DAY, AS BRUCE IS SUMMONED TO COURTNEY'S OFFICE...

THAT'S THE STORY MR. WAYNE! BECAUSE OF THE THREATS, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE LICKED BEFORE WE START. THERE, FOR INSTANCE, ARE THE ONLY THREE ACTORS AVAILABLE FOR THE BATMAN ROLE-- THREE HAS-BEENS!

DON'T SOUND SO GOOD, DOES IT!

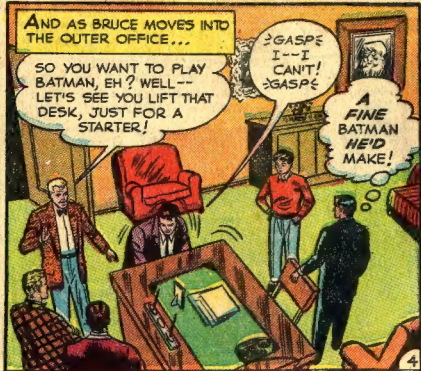


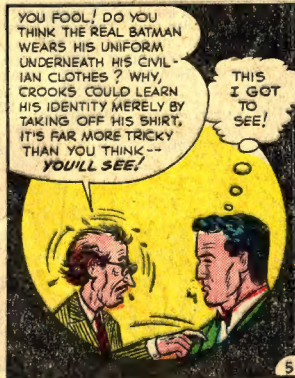
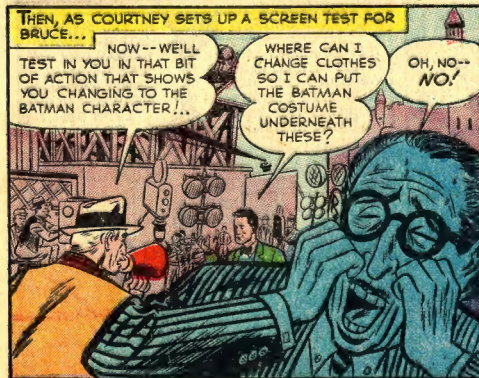
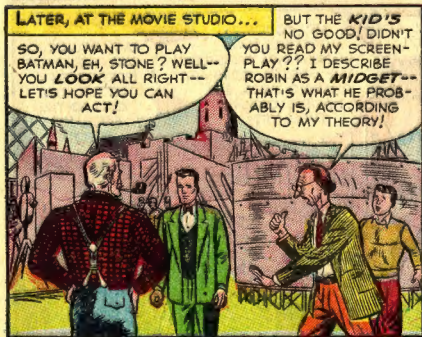
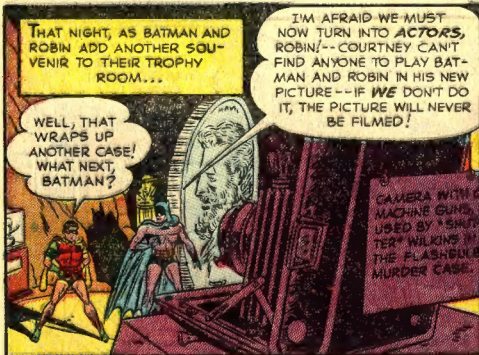
AND AS BRUCE MOVES INTO THE OUTER OFFICE...

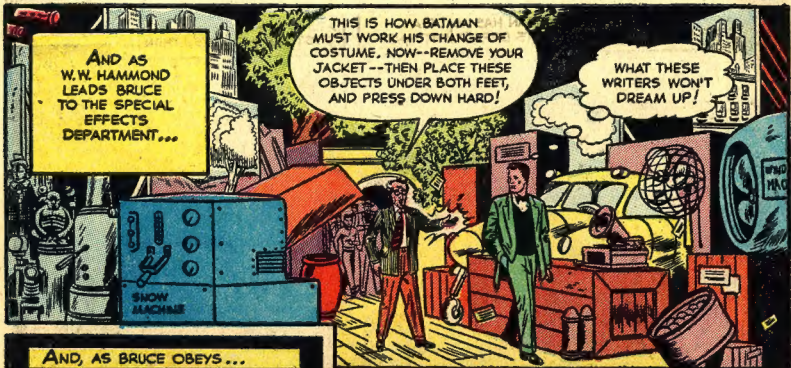
SO YOU WANT TO PLAY BATMAN, EH? WELL--LET'S SEE YOU LIFT THAT DESK, JUST FOR A STARTER!

2GASP2 I--I CAN'T! 2GASP2

A FINE BATMAN HE'D MAKE!







SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, WHEN BATMAN HAS MADE A QUICK TRIP TO THE SPECIAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT AND BACK...

NOW TO PUT THIS OUTLANDISH COMPRESSED-AIR BATMAN COSTUME GADGET TO SOME GOOD USE!

WHAT'S THAT CRAZY ACTOR DOIN'???

AS BATMAN TRIPS THE TRIGGERS, THE COSTUME INFLATES. THEN...

THERE ARE YOUR HOODLUMS, BEHIND THAT SPHINX! HURRY-- AND YOU'LL NAB THEM! I THOUGHT THEY'D START FIRING AT A **SITTING DUCK** OF A BATMAN!

I WISH I COULD GO-- BUT PEOPLE MIGHT BECOME SUSPICIOUS!

BANG BANG

LATER, WHEN THE CROOKS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT...

NICE GOING, MR. STONE! I WON'T NEED ANY TESTS--YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WERE **MADE** FOR THE ROLE!

I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL-- I CAN'T BE **TOO** CONVINCING! THIS IS A TRICKY BUSINESS!

THAT NIGHT, AS BRUCE WAYNE RECEIVES A PHONE CALL...

GOOD NEWS, MR. WAYNE! I'VE FOUND THE ACTOR TO PLAY BATMAN! I WANT YOU TO COME DOWN TOMORROW AND MEET HIM!



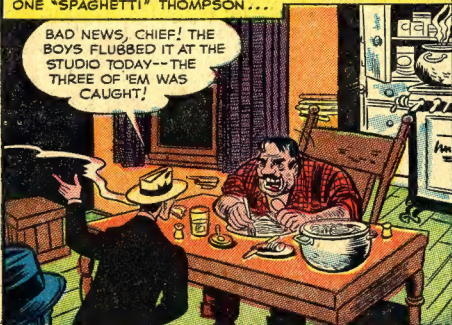
ER--I'M TERRIBLY BUSY, COURTNEY. TELL YOU WHAT--I'LL COME DOWN SOME NIGHT AND TAKE A LOOK AT HIM ON FILM--YOU CAN SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE TAKEN...

THAT WAS CLOSE!

AND AT THAT SAME MOMENT, IN THE CRIMINAL HIDEOUT OF ONE "SPAGHETTI" THOMPSON...

BAD NEWS, CHIEF! THE BOYS FLUBBED IT AT THE STUDIO TODAY--THE THREE OF 'EM WAS CAUGHT!

THAT'S ENOUGH **SLIP-UPS!** YOU KNOW WHAT OUR ORDERS ARE! TOMORROW, YOU STRIKE AGAIN-- AND **SHOOT TO KILL!**



NEXT DAY, BEFORE THE FILMING BEGINS AT THE STUDIO, AUTHOR HAMMOND AGAIN TAKES OVER THE SPOTLIGHT...

HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE BATMAN AND ROBIN KEEP TABS ON EACH OTHER'S WHEREABOUTS? WHY--THEY PROBABLY HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS--I CALL IT AN "IMPULSE-SENDER". IT SENDS OUT REGULAR RADIO IMPULSES!

BUT I THOUGHT EACH HAD A REGULAR RADIO!



SURE--BUT WHAT GOOD'S A RADIO IF YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS! THIS WAY, IF ONE IS KNOCKED OUT, THE OTHER IS GUIDED TO HIM SIMPLY BY THE SIGNAL AS IT GETS STRONGER AND STRONGER!

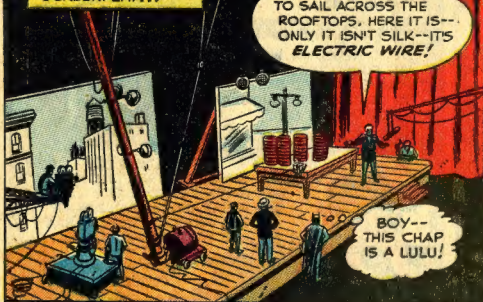
NOT BAD--BUT IMPRACTICAL! A RADIO IS MUCH BETTER--AND YOU COULDN'T USE BOTH. THIS WOULD BLOT OUT THE RADIO SIGNAL!



AND, AS HAMMOND EXPLAINS ANOTHER PORTION OF HIS SCREENPLAY...

FOR THE NEXT SCENE, BATMAN WILL USE HIS FAMOUS "SILKEN CORD" TO SAIL ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS. HERE IT IS--- ONLY IT ISN'T SILK--IT'S **ELECTRIC WIRE!**

BOY-- THIS CHAP IS A LULU!



SURE IT'S WIRE-- WITH A **STRONG, BUILT-IN ELECTROMAGNET** AT ITS END. PRESS THIS BUTTON, AND THE MAGNETIZED END GRIPS METAL LIKE A VISE! UNQUESTIONABLY, THAT'S HOW BATMAN USES IT!

THE FOOL! DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT HALF THE TIME, METAL ISN'T AVAILABLE ON WHICH TO LASH OUR CORD! THINK OF ALL THE BRICK AND STONE BUILDINGS WE'VE SCALED!



SUDDENLY!

OKAY, WISE GUYS! YOU WOULDN'T TAKE A HINT--SO NOW WE'RE GONNA **BLAST YA!**

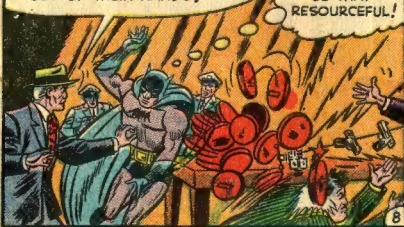
THIS CALLS FOR FAST ACTION!



IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! STONE NERVOUSLY SLIPPED AGAINST THE FILM CANS, KNOCKED ONE DOWN SO THAT IT PRESSED THE BUTTON AND ACTIVATED THE MAGNET! THE MAGNET TORE THE GUNS RIGHT OUT OF THEIR HANDS!

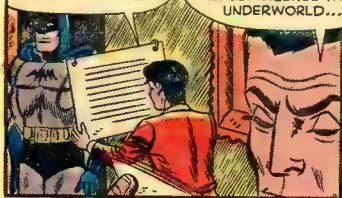
I HAD TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A CLUMSY MISTAKE! ACTOR STONE WOULDN'T BE THAT RESOURCEFUL!



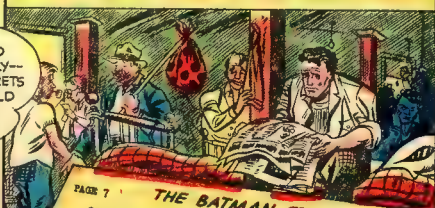
THAT EVENING, AS THE **REAL** BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCUSS "THE BATMAN STORY"...

WELL-- SO FAR, SO GOOD! YOU'VE MANAGED TO THWART THE UNDERWORLD AT EVERY TURN. THE MOVIE'S ROLLING RIGHT ALONG...

YES, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ODD HERE, DICK! I'VE READ THIS SCRIPT CAREFULLY-- I DON'T SEE ANY SECRETS REVEALED THAT WOULD REALLY INCENSE THE UNDERWORLD...



AND NEXT DAY AS FILMING CONTINUES, AND MORE OF HAMMOND'S BIZARRE IDEAS ARE REVEALED...



PAGE 7

SCENE 4

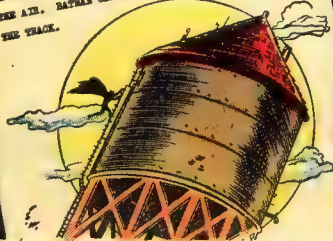
THE BATMAN STORY

IN REAL LIFE, BATMAN IS NOT A PROMINENT PERSON AS MOST BELIEVE, BUT ACTUALLY LIVES IN A FLOPHOUSE AS A DRUNKLOT TO PRESERVE HIS OWN IDENTITY. IN THE

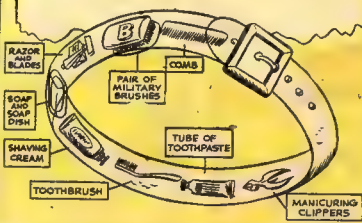
REVISED

THE BATMAN STORY
FAR FROM BEING A CAVE, THE FABULOUS BATCAVE ACTUALLY IS THE INTERIOR OF AN ABANDONED WATER TOWER, HIGH IN THE AIR. BATMAN CALLS IT A CAVE TO THROW PEOPLE OFF THE TRACK.

(END SCENE 4)



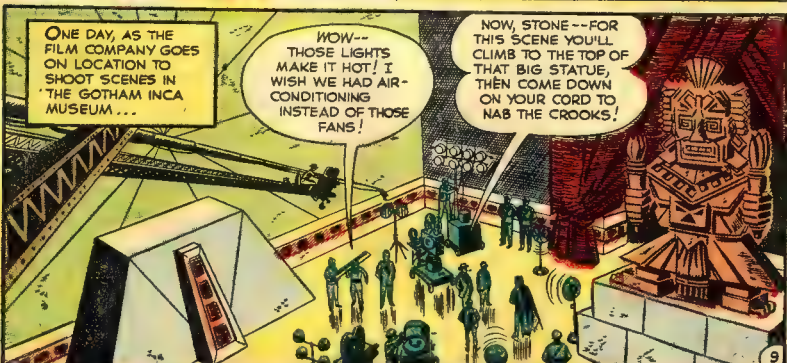
BATMAN'S UTILITY BELT IS NOT THE CRIME-WEAPON IT IS THOUGHT TO BE. SINCE BATMAN DOES A GREAT DEAL OF TRAVELING, IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE UTILITY BELT MUST FUNCTION AS A TRAVELING KIT!

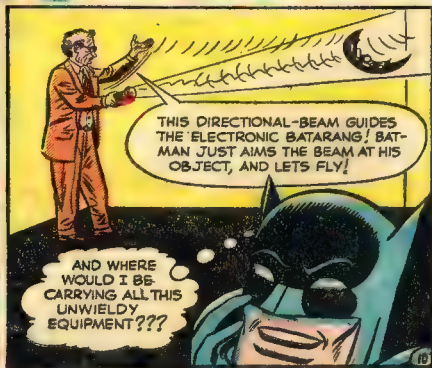
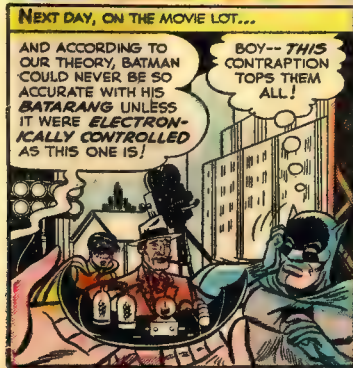
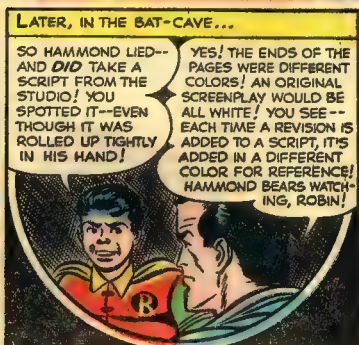
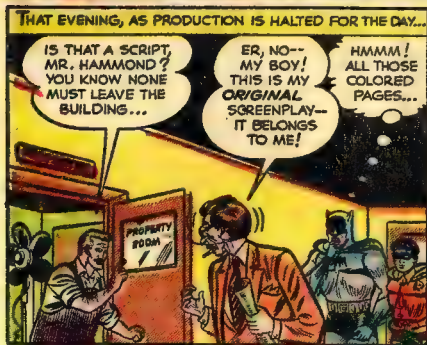
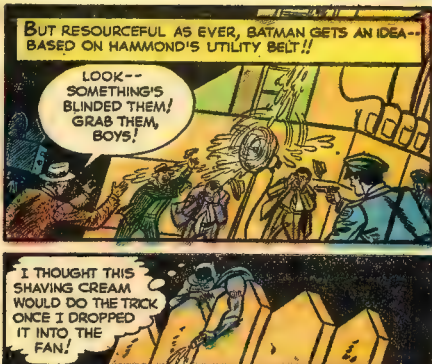


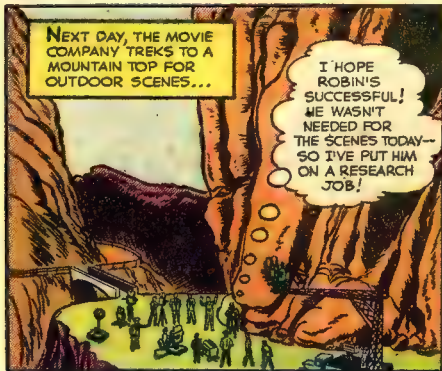
ONE DAY, AS THE FILM COMPANY GOES ON LOCATION TO SHOOT SCENES IN 'THE GOTHAM INCA MUSEUM'...

WOW-- THOSE LIGHTS MAKE IT HOT! I WISH WE HAD AIR-CONDITIONING INSTEAD OF THOSE FANS!

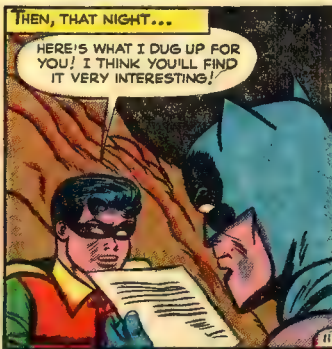
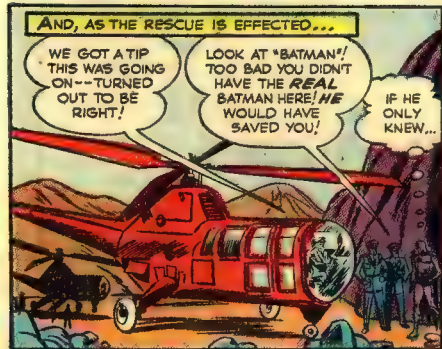
NOW, STONE--FOR THIS SCENE YOU'LL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THAT BIG STATUE, THEN COME DOWN ON YOUR CORD TO NAB THE CROOKS!







MOMENTS LATER...



NEXT EVENING, AFTER THE LAST DAY'S FILMING OF "THE BATMAN STORY"...

HEY, HAMMOND--
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ???
I INVITED EVERYBODY TO
A CELEBRATION
TONIGHT!

ER, SORRY,
COURTNEY--
SOMETHING--
ER--TERRIBLY
IMPORTANT
JUST CAME
UP!

THIS MAY BE
WHAT I'VE
BEEN
WAITING FOR!
I WOULD
BE CAUGHT
WITHOUT MY
REGULAR
EQUIPMENT!



THEN, A MOMENT LATER...

HEY, STONE!
YOU'RE NOT
RUNNING OFF,
TOO--ARE
YOU?

NO, MR. COURTNEY--
I JUST HAVE TO
SEE HAMMOND
FOR A
SECOND!



LATER THAT EVENING... IN THE HIDEOUT OF "SPAGHETTI" THOMPSON...

I PAID YOU GOOD
MONEY TO DO A JOB--AND YOU'VE
FAILED! THEY'VE FINISHED THE
PICTURE! WE'VE GOT ONE MORE
CHANCE--WE MUST DESTROY
THE NEGATIVE--**TONIGHT!**

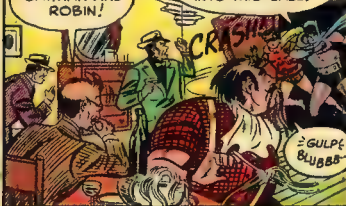
NOT TILL
I FINISH MY
DINNER!



IN THE NEXT
MOMENT...

BATMAN AND ROBIN! THE
REAL
BATMAN AND ROBIN!

YES! AND WE HEARD
ENOUGH OUTSIDE THIS
DOOR TO SEND YOU TO
JAIL FOR A LONG, LONG
TIME!! BRUCE WAYNE
WILL BE PLEASED--HE
ASKED ME TO LOOK
INTO THIS CASE!



WE FOUND OUT THAT YOU SOLD
YOUR STORY TO APEX WITH THE
CONDITION THAT IT MUST BE FILMED
WITHIN A YEAR OR ALL RIGHTS
REVERT BACK TO YOU! YOU SABO-
TAGED THE PICTURE SO YOU COULD
GET YOUR STORY BACK AND SELL
IT TO SOMEONE ELSE FOR
ANOTHER \$100,000!

AND IT WAS YOU
WHO PLANTED
THE FALSE
REPORTS THAT
THE UNDER-
WORLD WAS
GUNNING FOR
THIS PICTURE!



AND LATER...

TOO BAD
HAMMOND WILL
NEVER KNOW
HOW WE TRACKED
HIM DOWN! TO
THINK WE USED
HIS **INVENTION!**

YES, THE "IMPULSE-
SENDER" HE DEvised
FOR HIS MOVIE BATMAN
AND ROBIN! I LIFTED IT
OUT OF HIS POCKET
JUST NOW AS EASILY
AS I PLANTED IT AS
HE WAS LEAVING THE
STUDIO! HIS OWN
"IMPULSE-SENDER"
BROUGHT US RIGHT
TO HIS HIDEOUT!



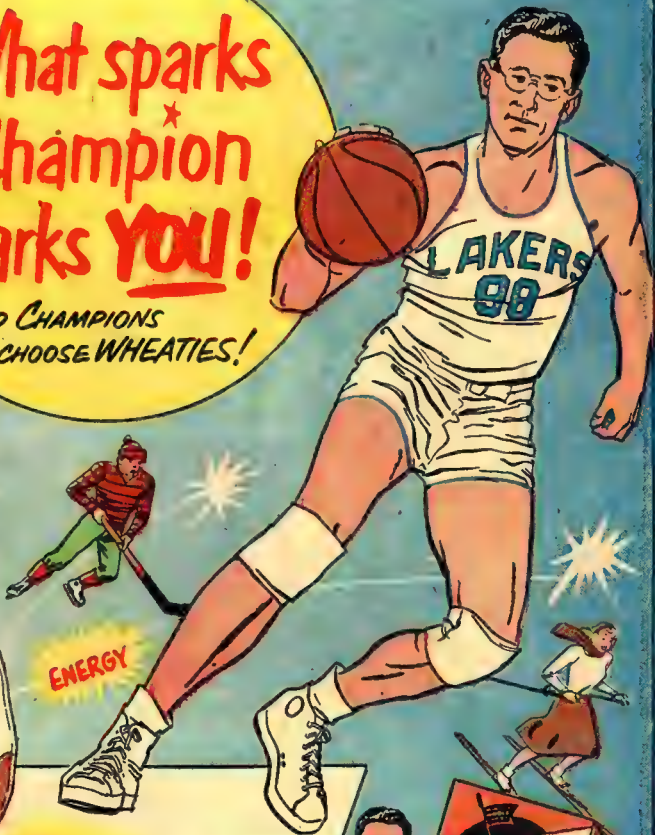
THE
END

George Mikan

"Mr. Basketball" Minneapolis Lakers

What sparks a Champion sparks YOU!

AND CHAMPIONS
CHOOSE WHEATIES!



IRON

ENERGY

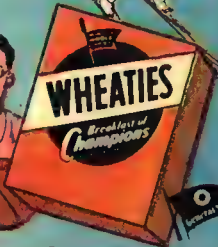
VITAMINS

CUTAWAY
VIEW OF
WHEAT
KERNEL

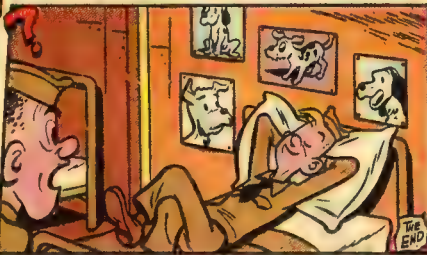
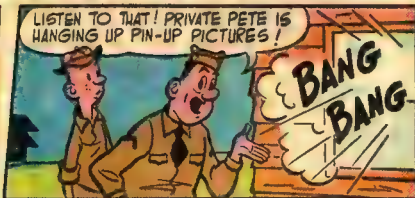
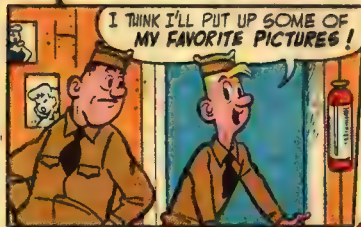
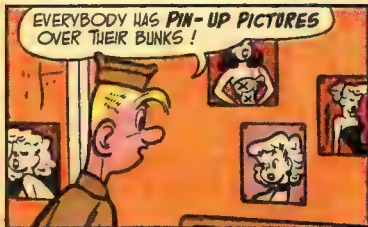
THERE'S A
WHOLE KERNEL OF WHEAT
IN EVERY WHEATIES FLAKE!

Every Wheaties flake you eat gives you a whole wheat kernel's worth of energy ... the same whole wheat energy the champions want! You want it, too. And you can count on getting it ... everytime in Wheaties.

Wheaties
give you ALL
the grain!



"Breakfast of Champions!"



ADVERTISEMENT

"GOO IS THROO!" SAYS **BERT PARKS** TV STAR OF "BREAK THE BANK"



MEET THE NEW CREAM HAIR TONIC THAT'S **NOT GREASY** OR STICKY...YET GROOMS HAIR **POSI-TV-LY** PERFECT ALL DAY!

CLEANER TO USE ... NO STICKY HANDS, HAIR OR COMB!

DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT'S **LIGHT-BODIED!**

NEW!

VITALIS Hair CREAM

— by Bristol-Myers, makers of famous Vitals



HOMOGENIZED FOR EASY FLOW. IN HANDY SHAKER-TOP BOTTLE.

MONEY BACK!

write us if you don't agree that it's the best cream tonic ever!

SAVE MONEY!
4 1/2 OZ. BOTTLE LEADING 50¢ 50¢ CREAM 50¢ 1 (ALSO IN 2 1/2 OZ. SIZE)

BATMAN

AND
ROBIN
"THE BOY WONDER"

HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE CRIMINALS TO CHALLENGE THE FORCES OF THE LAW! A WEIRD CRIMINAL WHO TERRIFIED GOTHAM CITY BY SEEKING A STRANGE LOOT-- BUTTONS FROM THE CLOTHING OF HIS VICTIMS! YES, FANTASTIC AS IT SEEMS, BUTTONS WERE HIS ONLY BOOTY! THE BUTTONS OF RICH MEN AND POOR MEN LURED HIM ALIKE-- AND NO ONE KNEW WHERE HE WOULD STRIKE NEXT! WHO WAS THIS SINISTER CREATURE WHO THOUGHT NOTHING OF TAKING A LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR A BUTTON? WHAT WAS HIS STRANGE MOTIVE? YOU'LL BE SHOCKED WHEN YOU LEARN THE TRUE STORY BEHIND...

"The **BUTTONS** of DOOM!"

THE BUTTONS OF DOOM

by BOB KANE



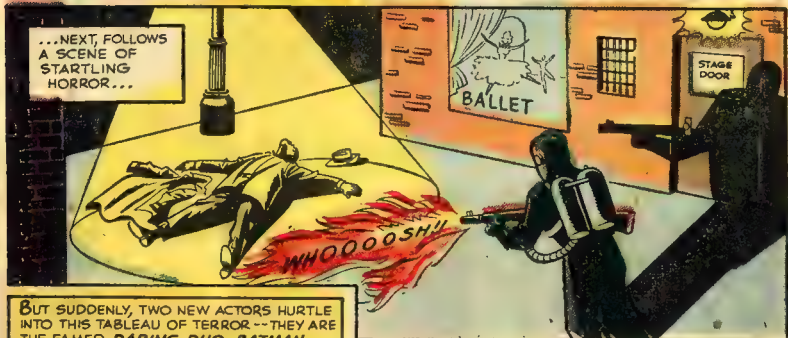
ONE NIGHT, IN GOTHAM CITY'S THEATRICAL DISTRICT AFTER THE AUDIENCES HAVE DEPARTED, A LONE FIGURE MOVES DOWN A DARK STAGE DOOR ALLEY...



THEN A STRANGE RITUAL IS PERFORMED... A PAIR OF ASBESTOS-GLOVED HANDS SNIP A BUTTON OFF THE FALLEN MAN'S COAT...



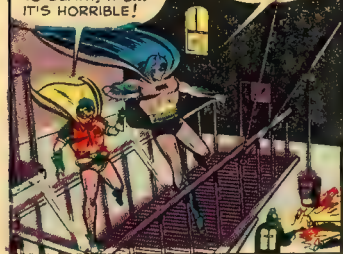
...NEXT, FOLLOWS A SCENE OF STARTLING HORROR...



BUT SUDDENLY, TWO NEW ACTORS HURTLE INTO THIS TABLEAU OF TERROR--THEY ARE THE FAMED DARING DUO, BATMAN AND ROBIN...

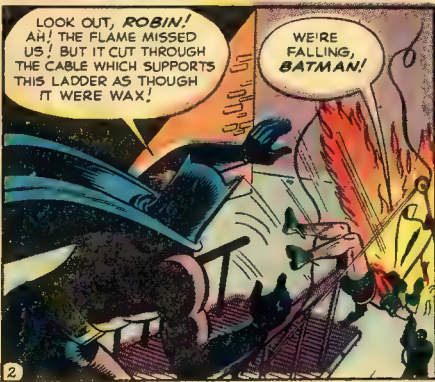
THAT GLOW WE SAW IN THE SKY, BATMAN! THERE'S THE SOURCE! THAT MAN'S GOING TO BE BURNED TO DEATH! IT'S... IT'S HORRIBLE!

NOT AS HORRIBLE AS IF WE'D ARRIVED A MOMENT LATER, ROBIN!



LOOK OUT, ROBIN! AH! THE FLAME MISSED US! BUT IT CUT THROUGH THE CABLE WHICH SUPPORTS THIS LADDER AS THOUGH IT WERE WAX!

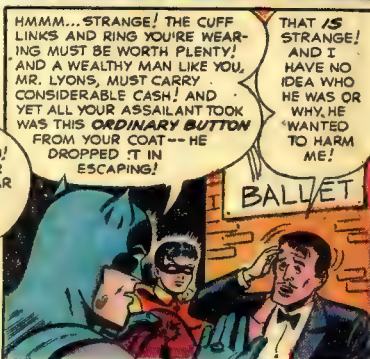
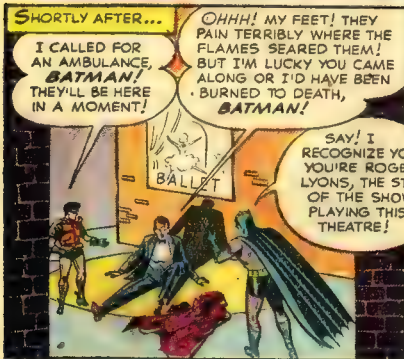
WE'RE FALLING, BATMAN!





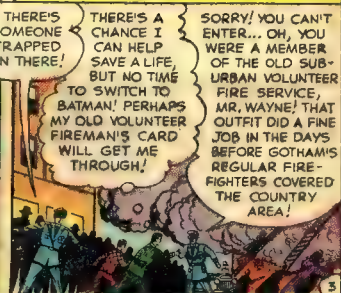
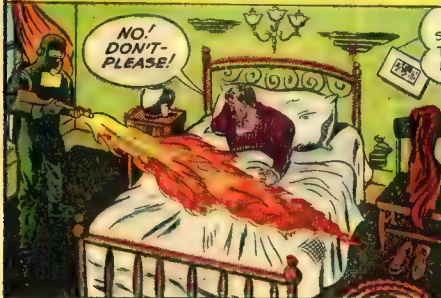
MAKING AN INSTANT RECOVERY, **BAT-MAN** PURSUES THE STRANGELY GARBED FIGURE, BUT PRESENTLY...

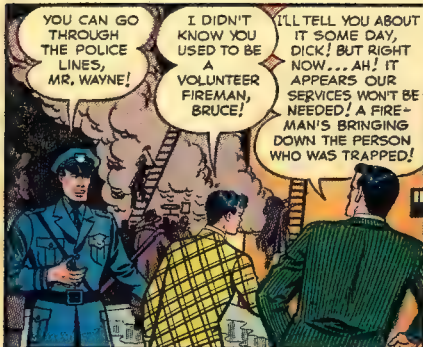
BAD LUCK! I GOT HERE TOO LATE TO SEE WHICH WAY HE TURNED! NO USE HUNTING FURTHER NOW! BETTER GO BACK AND SEE HOW HIS VICTIM... HEY! WHAT'S THIS? PERHAPS THAT FLAME MAN DROPPED IT!



SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, IN A CHEAP SLUM BOARDING HOUSE IN GOTHAM CITY, ITS POVERTY-STRICKEN OCCUPANT IS AWAKENED BY A SUDDEN VISITOR...

AND SHORTLY AFTER, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE ATTRACTED BY A GATHERING THROG...

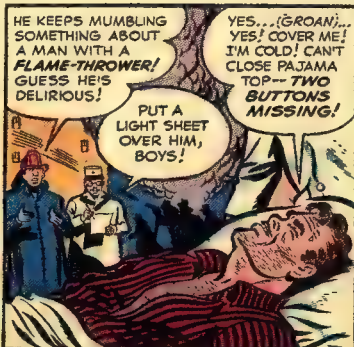




YOU CAN GO THROUGH THE POLICE LINES, MR. WAYNE!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU USED TO BE A VOLUNTEER FIREMAN, BRUCE!

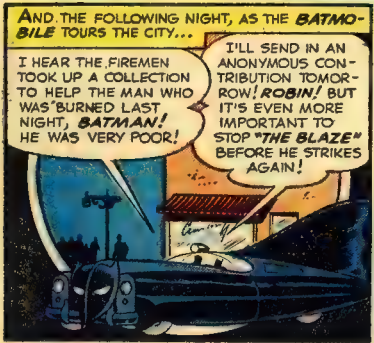
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT SOME DAY, DICK! BUT RIGHT NOW... AH! IT APPEARS OUR SERVICES WON'T BE NEEDED! A FIRE-MAN'S BRINGING DOWN THE PERSON WHO WAS TRAPPED!



HE KEEPS MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT A MAN WITH A **FLAME-THROWER!** GUESS HE'S DELIRIOUS!

PUT A LIGHT SHEET OVER HIM, BOYS!

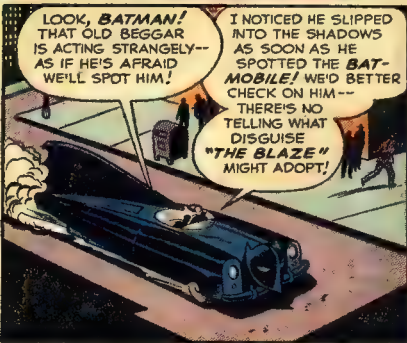
YES... (GROAN)... YES! COVER ME! I'M COLD! CAN'T CLOSE PAJAMA TOP-- **TWO BUTTONS MISSING!**



AND THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS THE **BATMOBILE** TOURS THE CITY...

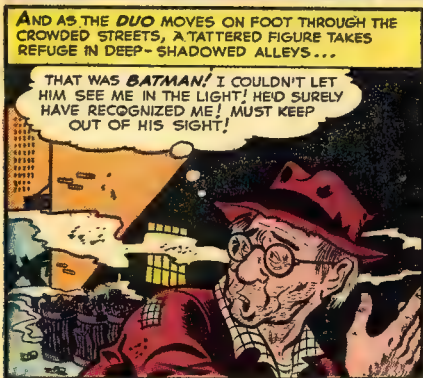
I HEAR THE FIREMEN TOOK UP A COLLECTION TO HELP THE MAN WHO WAS BURNED LAST NIGHT, **BATMAN!** HE WAS VERY POOR!

I'LL SEND IN AN ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTION TOMORROW! **ROBIN!** BUT IT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO STOP "**THE BLAZE**" BEFORE HE STRIKES AGAIN!



LOOK, **BATMAN!** THAT OLD BEGGAR IS ACTING STRANGELY-- AS IF HE'S AFRAID WE'LL SPOT HIM!

I NOTICED HE SLIPPED INTO THE SHADOWS AS SOON AS HE SPOTTED THE **BATMOBILE!** WE'D BETTER CHECK ON HIM-- THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT DISGUISE "**THE BLAZE**" MIGHT ADOPT!



AND AS THE **DUO** MOVES ON FOOT THROUGH THE CROWDED STREETS, A TATTERED FIGURE TAKES REFUGE IN DEEP-SHADOWED ALLEYS...

THAT WAS **BATMAN!** I COULDN'T LET HIM SEE ME IN THE LIGHT! HE'D SURELY HAVE RECOGNIZED ME! MUST KEEP OUT OF HIS SIGHT!



BUT ABRUPTLY, AS THE RAG-GARBED FUGITIVE TURNS A CORNER, HIS UNSHAVEN FACE FREEZES IN HORROR, FOR THERE...

YOU! OH, NO! NO! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME BY FLAME!

MEANWHILE...

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE BEGGAR FROM UP HERE, **ROBIN!** BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO SPOT HIM!

BATMAN! THAT GLOW COMING FROM THE STREET OVER THERE! IT'S FIRE! WE MAY BE TOO LATE!



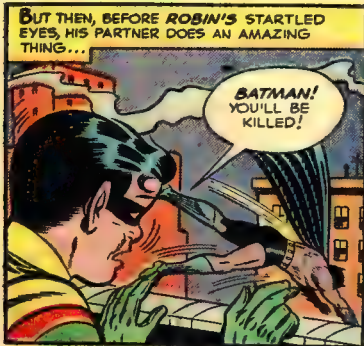
INSTANTLY, THE **DUO** RACES ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS UNTIL...

THERE'S THE BEGGAR WE'RE TRAILING, BUT HE'S NOT **THE BLAZE**-- HE'S ANOTHER **VICTIM!** AND FROM HERE WE'RE HELPLESS TO RESCUE HIM!

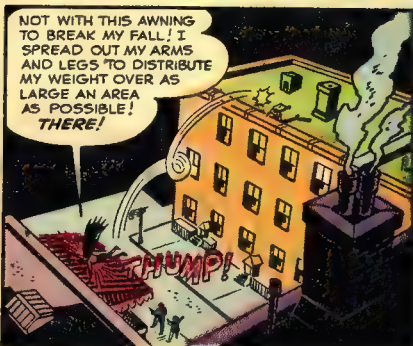


BUT THEN, BEFORE **ROBIN'S** STARTLED EYES, HIS PARTNER DOES AN AMAZING THING...

BATMAN! YOU'LL BE KILLED!

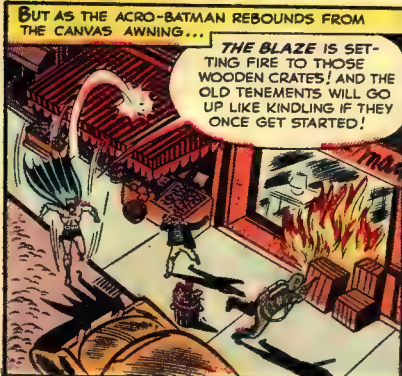


NOT WITH THIS AWNING TO BREAK MY FALL! I SPREAD OUT MY ARMS AND LEGS TO DISTRIBUTE MY WEIGHT OVER AS LARGE AN AREA AS POSSIBLE! **THERE!**



BUT AS THE ACRO-BATMAN REBOUNDS FROM THE CANVAS AWNING...

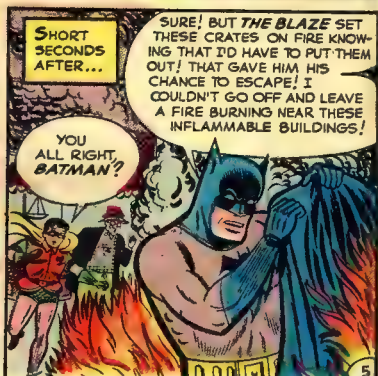
THE BLAZE IS SETTING FIRE TO THOSE WOODEN CRATES! AND THE OLD TENEMENTS WILL GO UP LIKE KINDLING IF THEY ONCE GET STARTED!

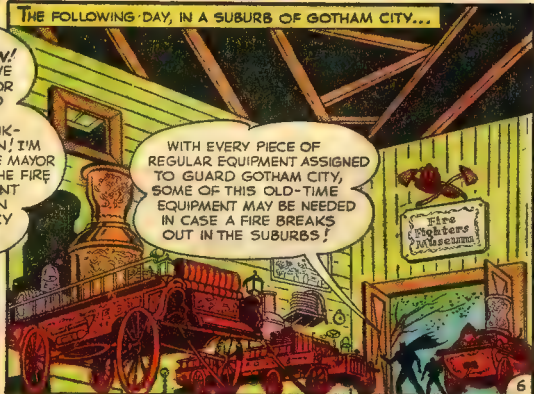
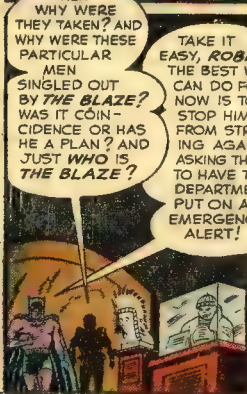
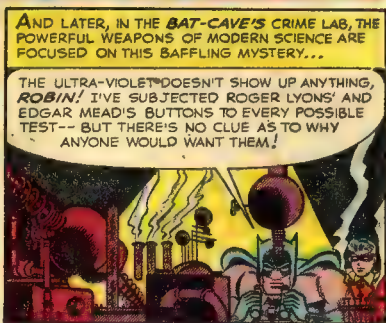
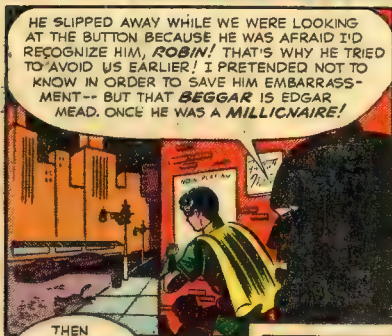
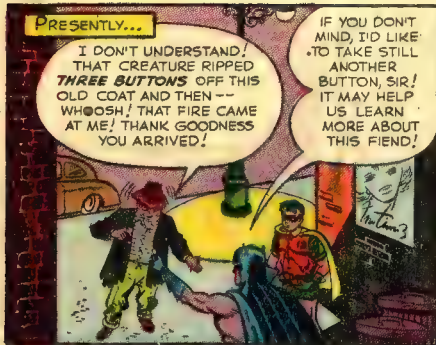


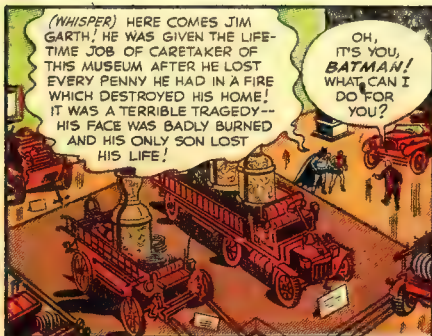
SHORT SECONDS AFTER...

SURE! BUT **THE BLAZE** SET THESE CRATES ON FIRE KNOWING THAT I'D HAVE TO PUT THEM OUT! THAT GAVE HIM HIS CHANCE TO ESCAPE! I COULDN'T GO OFF AND LEAVE A FIRE BURNING NEAR THESE INFLAMMABLE BUILDINGS!

YOU ALL RIGHT, **BATMAN?**







(WHISPER) HERE COMES JIM GARTH! HE WAS GIVEN THE LIFE-TIME JOB OF CARETAKER OF THIS MUSEUM AFTER HE LOST EVERY PENNY HE HAD IN A FIRE WHICH DESTROYED HIS HOME! IT WAS A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY-- HIS FACE WAS BADLY BURNED AND HIS ONLY SON LOST HIS LIFE!

OH, IT'S YOU, **BATMAN!** WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WE'RE CHECKING THE OLD EQUIPMENT, MR. GARTH! IT MAY BE CALLED INTO SERVICE BECAUSE OF THE EMERGENCY THE **BLAZE** HAS CREATED!

OH, YES! I'VE HEARD OF HIM! WELL, YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING IN WORKING ORDER! I KEEP THIS PLACE SHINING--EVEN THE PICTURES OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES WE USED TO HAVE IN THIS SUBURB ARE DUSTED DAILY!

SOON AFTER, AS THE **BATMOBILE** SPEEDS BACK TOWARD THE CITY...

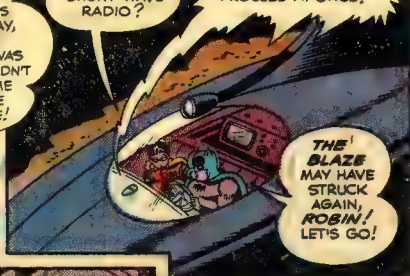
I NOTICED YOUR PICTURE IN ONE OF THOSE VOLUNTEER GROUPS AS **BRUCE WAYNE** AND MR. GARTH MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT **BATMAN** ALSO HAVING ONCE BEEN A VOLUNTEER FIREFMAN! HOW COME?

WHEN I JOINED UP AS **BRUCE WAYNE**, I ALSO ENROLLED AS **BATMAN**! THAT WAY, IF AN ALARM WAS SOUNDED WHILE I WAS IN COSTUME, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WASTE TIME CHANGING BEFORE GOING TO THE FIRE!



I GET IT!... SAY! WHAT'S THAT ON OUR POLICE SHORT-WAVE RADIO?

ATTENTION ALL CARS! THREE ALARM FIRE AT 1672 CENTER STREET! PROCEED AT ONCE!



THE **BLAZE** MAY HAVE STRUCK AGAIN, **ROBIN!** LET'S GO!

BUT MOMENTS LATER, AS THE **BATMOBILE** COMES TO A SCREECHING HALT BEFORE A BUILDING WHICH IS NOW A ROARING INFERNO...

EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME FOR THE DAY EXCEPT THIS POOR GUY WHO MUST HAVE BEEN WORKING! WE DID ALL WE COULD TO RESCUE HIM-- BUT WE WERE TOO LATE!

IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE TOO LATE ALSO, **BATMAN!**

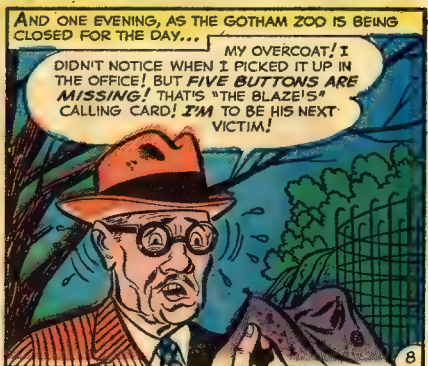
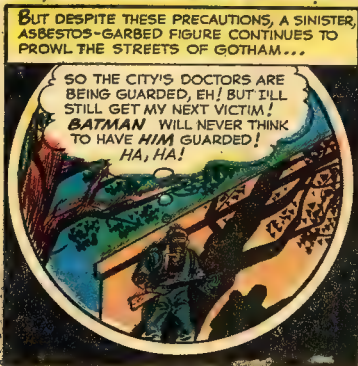
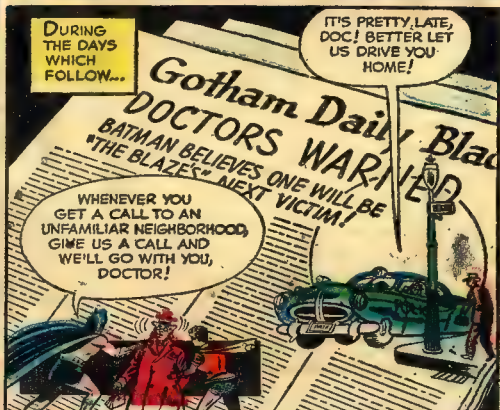
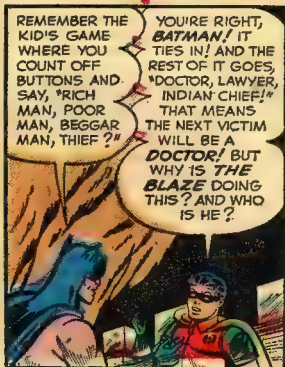
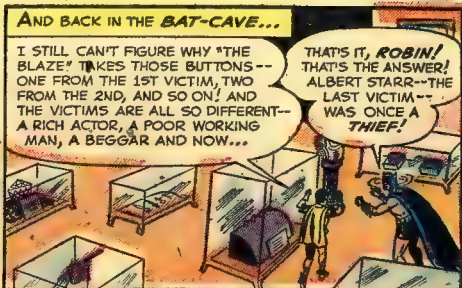


SOME HOURS AFTER, IN THE BURNT SKELETON OF WHAT WAS ONCE A PROUD OFFICE BUILDING...

GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW IF THIS FIRE WAS THE WORK OF THE **BLAZE** OR NOT, **BATMAN!**

I BELIEVE WE ALREADY KNOW, **ROBIN!** THIS BUZZER DEVICE ON THE DESK! IT'S BADLY CHARRED BUT I CAN STILL DETECT SOMETHING-- THERE ARE EXACTLY 4 BUTTONS MISSING!





DESPERATELY, THE MAN RUSHES TO A PHONE BOOTH AND WITH TREMBLING HANDS LIFTS THE RECEIVER...

HELLO! POLICE! COME TO THE ZOO QUICKLY! I WORK HERE! I'M **THE BLAZE'S** NEXT VICTIM! I'M... OH! IT'S **YOU!** WHY HAVE **YOU** COME AFTER ME? WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO YOU?



USING SUPER-STRENGTH BROUGHT ON BY SHEER TERROR, THE FRIGHTENED MAN PUSHES PAST HIS ATTACKER AND RACES BLINDLY AMONG THE CAGES OF WILD BEASTS! UNTIL...

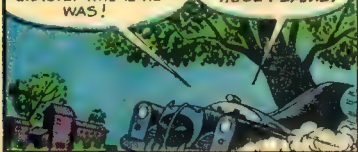
I'M CORNERED! TRAPPED! AND THESE BEASTS ARE TERRIFIED! THEY MAY BREAK FROM THEIR CAGES!



MEANWHILE...

HEADQUARTERS SAID THEY GOT A CALL FROM THE ZOO BUT THE CALL WAS CUT OFF BEFORE THE MAN COULD TELL EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS!

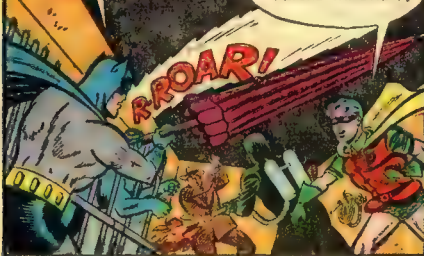
BATMAN! OVER THERE! THERE'S LIGHT POURING FROM THAT BUILDING AND IT APPEARS TO BE FROM A **HUGE FLAME!**



THEN, AS THE TWIN TORNADOES COME FULL UPON THE HORROR-FILLED SCENE...

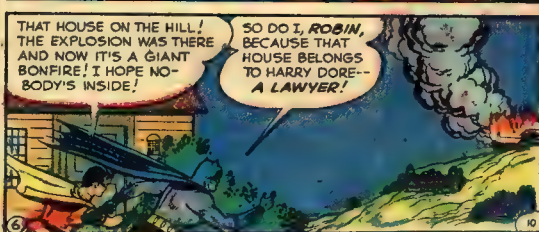
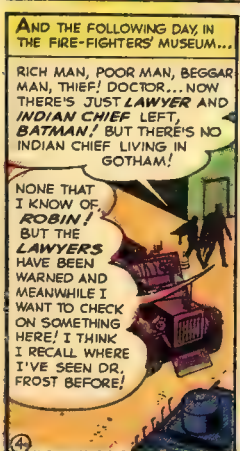
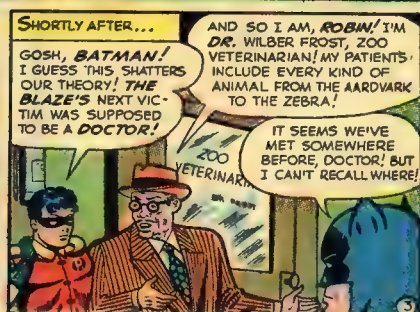
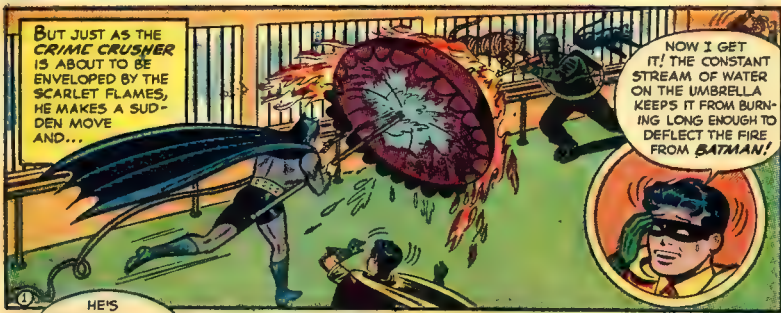
GRAB THAT HOSE THAT'S USED TO WASH OUT THE CAGES, TURN ON THE FAUCET, AND HAND IT HERE, **ROBIN!**

BUT, **BATMAN!** IT'S A TINY GARDEN HOSE! WHAT GOOD WILL IT BE AGAINST THAT POWERFUL FLAME-THROWER?



THE BLAZE IS TURNING ON YOU, **BATMAN!** HIS FLAME-THROWER WILL CUT YOU DOWN! COME BACK!





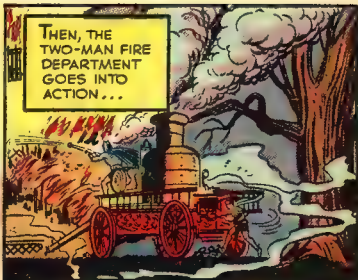
SECONDS AFTER, A STRANGE CAVALCADE SPEEDS TOWARD THE RAGING FLAMES...

WITH ALL THE MODERN EQUIPMENT PATROLLING THE CITY, WE'LL USE THESE OLD-TIME ENGINES UNTIL THE OTHERS CAN GET HERE!

I'LL BET JIM GARTH, THE MUSEUM'S CARETAKER WILL BE SURPRISED WHEN HE FINDS HIS CHARGES HAVE GONE TO A FIRE! HE WASN'T THERE WHEN WE BORROWED THEM!



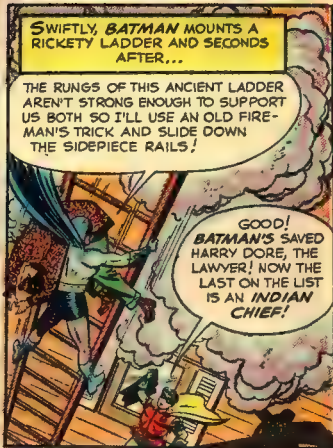
THEN, THE TWO-MAN FIRE DEPARTMENT GOES INTO ACTION...



SWIFTLY, BATMAN MOUNTS A RICKETY LADDER AND SECONDS AFTER...

THE RUNGS OF THIS ANCIENT LADDER AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT US BOTH SO I'LL USE AN OLD FIRE-MAN'S TRICK AND SLIDE DOWN THE SIDEPiece RAILS!

GOOD! BATMAN'S SAVED HARRY DORE, THE LAWYER! NOW THE LAST ON THE LIST IS AN INDIAN CHIEF!

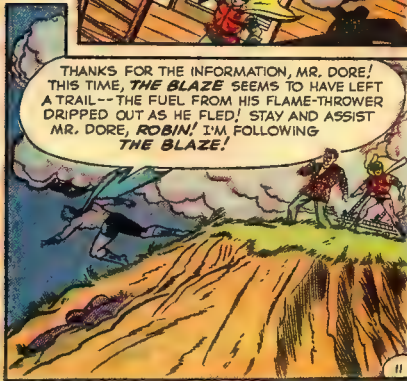


PRESENTLY, WHEN LAWYER DORE REVIVES...

...HE BROKE INTO MY STUDY, TORE THE BUTTONS OFF MY JACKET AND THEN TURNED ON HIS FLAME-THROWER! FIRE WAS BETWEEN ME AND THE DOOR. BEFORE I COULD ESCAPE, THE FLAMES REACHED THE OIL-BURNER IN THE BASEMENT AND THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION!



THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION, MR. DORE! THIS TIME, THE BLAZE SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT A TRAIL--THE FUEL FROM HIS FLAME-THROWER DRIPPED OUT AS HE FLED! STAY AND ASSIST MR. DORE, ROBIN! I'M FOLLOWING THE BLAZE!



BUT SEVERAL MINUTES AFTER **BATMAN** HAS LEFT, A HORRIBLE THOUGHT SUDDENLY BURSTS LIKE A ROCKET IN **ROBIN'S** BRAIN...

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE! THE HEAD PRESS IN OUR TROPHY ROOM! **BATMAN WAS ONCE MADE AN HONORARY INDIAN CHIEF!** "THE BLAZE" MUST HAVE LEFT THAT TRAIL TO TRAP HIM!

AND MEANWHILE...

THE TRAIL OF FUEL LEADS INTO THIS CAVE USED BY THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION GANG TO STORE THEIR EQUIPMENT AND...

AHA! YOU FELL FOR MY TRAP! YOU ARE MY LAST VICTIM!

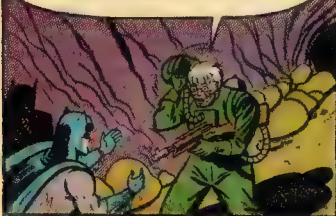
I MAY BE YOUR **LAST** VICTIM BUT I'M THE **FIRST** TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I SUSPECTED WHEN I RECALLED THAT THE VICTIMS WERE ALL ONCE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN! BUT WHEN I FOUND THE OLD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS CONTAINED THE KIND OF OIL THAT BURNS IN A FLAME-THROWER, I WAS SURE **THE BLAZE** WAS **JIM GARTH!**



DANGER DYNAMITE ROAD WORK CONSTRUCTION T.N.



RIGHT! AND IF YOU AND THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS WHO ANSWERED THE ALARM WHEN MY HOUSE BURNED HAD DONE YOUR JOBS, MY SON WOULDN'T BE DEAD AND MY FACE WOULDN'T BE THIS WAY! BUT NOW YOU TOO WILL KNOW THE SEARING PAIN OF FIRE!



BUT AS **THE RAGING FIRE LASHES OUT AT BATMAN**, A FLEET FIGURE SUDDENLY HURTTLES INTO THE CAVE...

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THIS TIME, **BLAZE!** THE ONLY EXIT IS COVERED!

HE'S RUNNING TO THE BACK OF THE CAVE WITH THAT **FLAME**--THAT'S WHERE THE ROAD GANG STORES ITS **DYNAMITE!** STOP!



AND SECONDS AFTER...

GARTH! COME BACK! YOU'LL BE...

HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO OUR WARNING!

BOOM!



LATER, AT THE FIRE-FIGHTERS' MUSEUM...

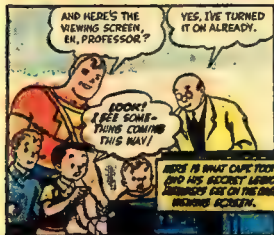
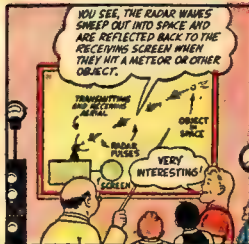
EVERYONE HE ATTACKED WAS ONCE A VOLUNTEER IN THE GROUP WHICH FOUGHT THE FIRE AT HIS HOUSE--THE BUTTON TWIST WAS JUST THE PRODUCT OF A TWISTED MIND! WE DID OUR BEST BUT IN GARTH'S MAD BRAIN WE WERE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SON'S DEATH!

I SEE! AND IT WAS NATURAL THAT OUT OF THE GROUP SOME WOULD BECOME RICH, SOME POOR, SOME DOCTORS AND SOME LAWYERS! BUT IF **BATMAN** HADN'T BEEN INVOLVED, GARTH WOULD SURE HAVE BEEN STUCK FOR AN INDIAN CHIEF!



THE END

Captain Tootsie and the RADAR RESCUE



BOYS! GIRLS! LOOK!

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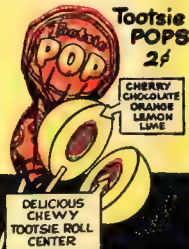
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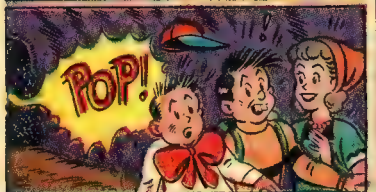
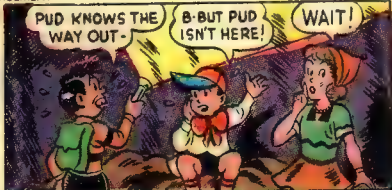
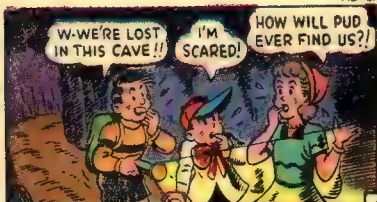
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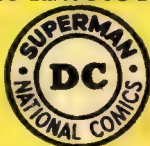
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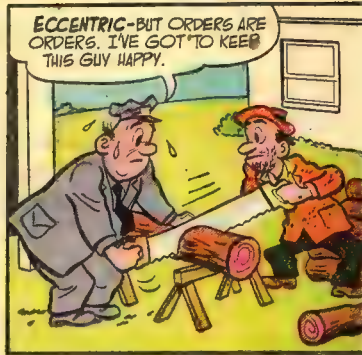
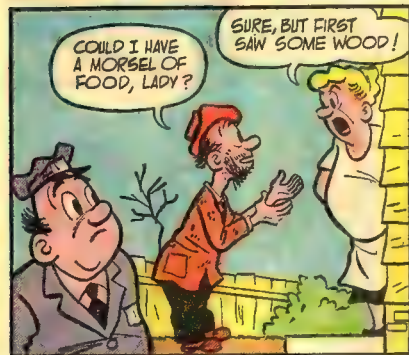
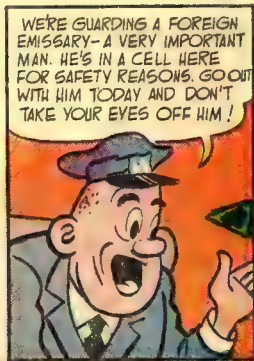
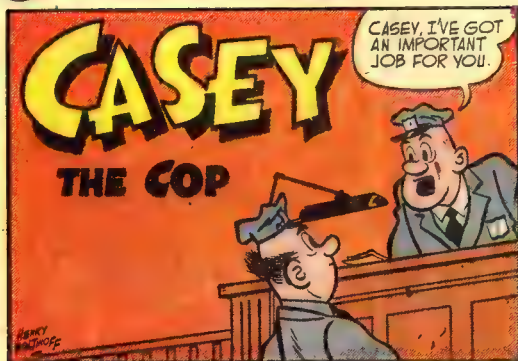


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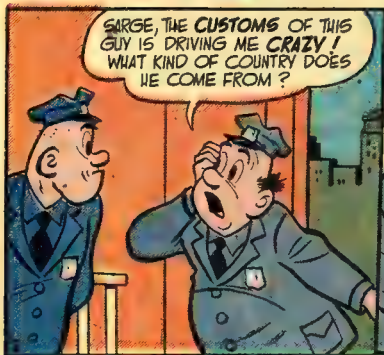
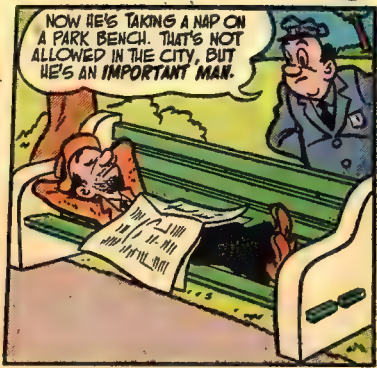
See your local paper
for time and channel

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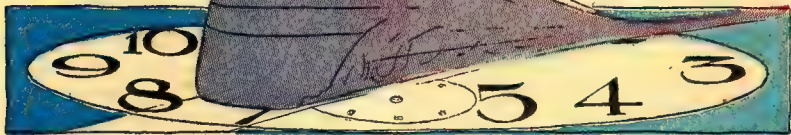




BATMAN



Time Detective



UNCLE WHISKERS, who begins all official consideration of military and naval personnel with "name, rank and serial number," keeps tabs on railroaders for whom he has a variation of the query so familiar to the G.I.

With the boys who make the wheels go 'round on the shining rails, the concern is not identification of the man, but of his watch, and the question is, "name, make and serial number."

Under Federal regulations, no conductor or engineman can leave a division point until he has filled out a government form which carries spaces for his name, the make of his watch, its serial number, and how many seconds deviation it shows from standard time.

Railroad men are among the most time-conscious individuals on earth, and they wear out their watch pockets faster than any other part of their uniforms.

It's not that they are "clock watchers" in the commonly accepted sense of the term. It is just that time still looms large on the railroad horizon in spite of the fact that safety measures and mechanical and electrical devices have eliminated much of the

old-time dependence on the individual in the handling of trains.

The time element and the human factor still are so important in the routing of passenger and freight traffic over hundreds of thousands of miles of railroads in the United States that strict standards governing the kind, care and servicing of watches are laid down and enforced by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Although they have installed centralized traffic controls on their systems, railways regard watch accuracy with such respect, they maintain time service operating departments and send frequently-revised rules governing the care and inspection of watches to all concerned.

A general watch inspector like Santa Fe's A. J. Strobel, in Topeka, exercises authority over traveling inspectors, who regularly check local inspectors in all division and key points along the system.

A railroader's watch is his own property and he must pay for its upkeep, but it must conform to a set rule as to type, design and precision; must be registered and accompanied at all times by a registration card; must not vary from absolute accuracy by more than 30 seconds a week; must be

checked by a local inspector at least once every two years; and must be compared daily with a standard mercury clock or with the watch of another employe who has made such a comparison recently.

Even the length of the hands of a rail-roader's watch is prescribed by regulation, and luminous, gold or fancy hands are taboo. A railroader's watch must have an open face, must be marked with heavy Arabic numerals, and must be fitted with a crystal which is neither cracked, chipped nor badly scratched.

What's more, a railroader cannot yield to any romantic or sentimental impulses and carry a photograph pasted on the case, dial or crystal, such fol-de-rol being referred to as "obstructions," and prohibited specifically.

As inseparable as are the railroader and his watch are the watch and its accompanying Time Service Approval Card, issued by the general watch inspector when the time-piece is purchased and before it is put into service.

When a railroader takes his watch to a local inspector for regulation, cleaning or repairs, it is accompanied by its card until it returns to his possession. In its place he receives a "loaner" watch and a loaner Watch Certificate.

Before a train leaves a division point, the conductor compares his watch with that of the engineman at the same time they compare orders, the engineman compares his watch with that of the fireman, and the conductor compares time with the brakeman and any other members of the crew.

En route, if an engineman's watch is lost or broken, he can, under regulations, commandeer the fireman's watch until the end of the journey. Similarly, if the conductor's

watch fails or disappears, he can take the brakeman's timepiece.

Enginemen, conductors, firemen, brakemen, engine foremen, yardmasters, signal maintenance employes and all other employes in the track and traffic departments who maintain traffic on a main line are required to own watches subject to regulations.

Trainmasters, superintendents and traffic supervisors are the railroad's "time detectives." They can, and do, examine watches at will, and may impose demerits if any of the many regulations governing the ownership and care of a timepiece has not been complied with.

The importance of time is emphasized in division railroad offices where there is at least one standard mercury clock in every room and hallway. Each is checked daily with a report from the U. S. Naval Observatory and is marked with a prominently displayed card which indicates whether it is correct or whether there is a variation of even one second in its accuracy. Each daily time-check requires three minutes.

Most railroads maintain central records on the watches of all employes, and if a man fails to have his watch checked at least once during each two years, he is subject to penalty.

Even the man who directs the mechanical and electrical wizard which is the centralized traffic control board in a railroad division office sits in a room with a standard clock on the wall and a watch lying face up on the desk in front of him.

And on the thousands of miles of railroad where traffic still is moved under train orders, the little black indicators that travel around the faces of watches and clocks are the hands that mean the difference between life and death, safety and disaster.

ROUNDUP

HOW MANY DIFFERENT FOUR-LETTER WORDS CAN YOU FIND HIDDEN IN THE *Key-words*? YOU CAN HUNT ALONE OR COMPETE WITH A FRIEND, THE ONE CORRALING THE MOST WORDS BEING DECLARED WINNER.

15 MINUTES IS THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR PLAY. (AS AN EXAMPLE... IF THE *Key-words* WERE **SADDLE UP**, YOUR SEARCH MIGHT TURN UP... PALE, SLED, PEAL AND LEAD). TEN OF THE WORDS YOU'RE OUT TO LASSO ARE LISTED BELOW. ANY OTHERS YOU ROUT ARE ACCEPTABLE. READY, PARDNER? LET'S GO!

Key-words

INDIAN CHIEF



hidden words

HAND - FINE - HIDE - CANE - DEAN
DEAF - FIND - FADE - FACE - CHIN

ADVERTISEMENT

OUT OF THIS WORLD by Necco

THE TAIL OF A COMET ALWAYS POINTS AWAY FROM THE SUN NO MATTER WHICH WAY THE COMET IS HEADING.

THIS MEANS THAT AT TIMES THE TAIL LEADS THE COMET.

WHEN YOU'RE ON THE TRAIL OF A DELICIOUS CANDY TREAT, **Necco** WAFERS ARE ALWAYS IN THE LEAD!

Necco
ASSORTED WAFERS

A LOT FOR A LITTLE!



REMEMBER THE PERILS BATMAN AND ROBIN FACED WHEN BATTLING THE CATWOMAN? WELL, YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT NEW DANGERS AWAIT THEM WHEN A MAN BECOMES A MASTER OF CAT CRIMES! HOW WILL THIS BOLD CAT CRIMINAL AFFECT THE WOMAN WHO WAS ONCE THE QUEEN OF CRIME? CAN HE INFLUENCE HER INTO TURNING AGAINST THE LAW AGAIN? BATMAN AND ROBIN WONDER IF THEY WILL SEE A NEW REIGN OF CROOKDOM BY THE CATWOMAN AND....

The KING of the CATS!

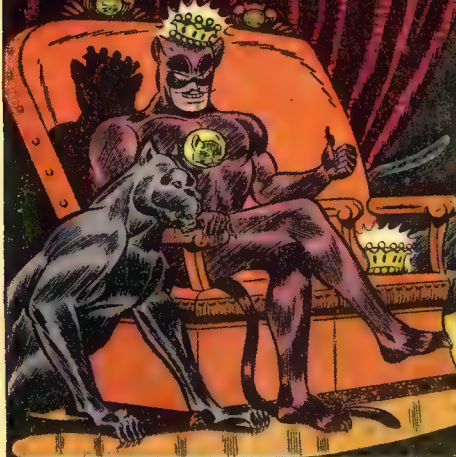
by BOB KANE

BATMAN

WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER



AN EMPTY THRONE AWAITS YOU! JOIN ME AND WE CAN RULE AS KING AND QUEEN OF THE UNDER-WORLD!



?

NO, CATWOMAN, DON'T DO IT!



IN GOTHAM CITY, WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, YOUNG DICK GRAYSON, LOOK AT A CERTAIN PET SHOP WITH UNUSUAL INTEREST...

BRUCE, EVERY TIME WE PASS HERE, I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SELINA KYLE, A RESPECTED SHOP OWNER, WAS ONCE THE NOTORIOUS **CATWOMAN**!

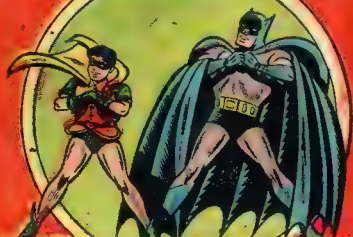
WELL, REMEMBER, DICK, SELINA WAS AN **AMNESIA VICTIM** DURING HER **CATWOMAN** CAREER! SHE REALLY WASN'T A CRIMINAL AT HEART! AND SPEAKING OF CRIME, IT'S GETTING LATE... TIME WE DID SOME CRIME-HUNTING AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!

PET SHOP

CATS A
SPECIALTY

SELINA KYLE
PROPRIETRESS

RETURNING HOME, THE TWO SECRETLY DON A PAIR OF COSTUMES KNOWN THE WORLD OVER...



...THE COSTUMES OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, THE **BOY WONDER**!

AND AS NIGHT FALLS, THE **CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS** AGAIN PATROL THE DARK CITY STREETS, EVER ON THE ALERT AGAINST BANDITRY...

EVERYTHING
SEEMS QUIET
TONIGHT,
BATMAN!

HOPE
IT STAYS
THAT WAY,
ROBIN!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, IN A NEARBY JEWELRY SHOP, A STRANGE INCIDENT SIGNALLING THE START OF A NEW WAVE OF **BAFFLING CRIMES**...

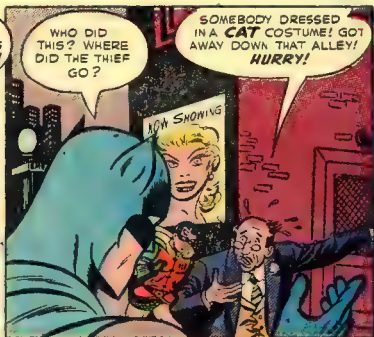
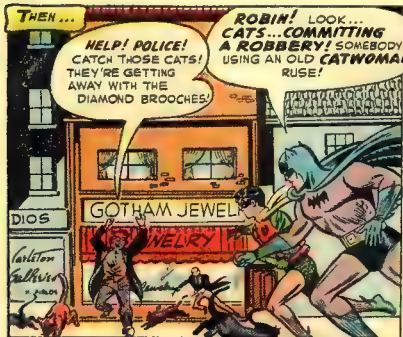
MY GOODNESS,
JOE... LOOK AT ALL
THOSE CATS! 'HELP
ME CHASE THEM
OUT OF HERE!

AND WHILE THE
CLERKS BUSY
THEMSELVES WITH
THE FELINE
INVASION,
A
CLAWLIKE HAND
REACHES FOR A
DISPLAY OF VALU-
ABLE BROOCHES!

NEXT... A WHISTLED SIGNAL... THE
CATS RUSH TO THE BIG, BECKONING
CLAW, AND...

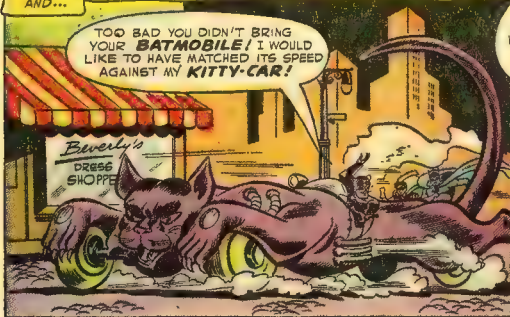
NOW TO SLIP THESE
BROOCHES INTO THEIR
BAGS!





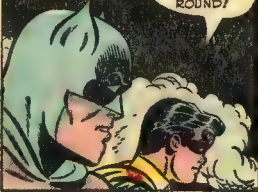
ABRUPTLY, THE BIZARRE FIGURE LEAPS INTO AN INCREDIBLE VEHICLE, AND...

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T BRING YOUR **BATMOBILE!** I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MATCHED ITS SPEED AGAINST MY **KITTY-CAR!**



ROBIN, THERE GOES TROUBLE! IF THAT MAN IS OUT TO SET HIMSELF UP AS KING OF THE UNDERWORLD, WE'LL BE A COUPLE OF VERY BUSY CRIMEFIGHTERS!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU STOPPED HIM FROM GETTING THOSE DIAMOND BROOCHES! SO WE'VE WON THE FIRST ROUND!



BUT **ROBIN** IS WRONG! FOR WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE JEWELRY SHOP...

HE TRICKED US! THESE ARE THE BROOCHES WE RECOVERED FROM THE CATS... THEY'RE NOT THE REAL ONE'S... THEY'RE CLEVER **FAKES!**

HMMM... WE HAD COPIES MADE UP BEFOREHAND AND SLIPPED THEM INTO THE SACKS. WHILE HE PALMED THE REAL BROOCHES! A CUNNING RUSE!

NO SOONER DO WE GET RID OF A **CRIME QUEEN** THAN WE HAVE A **CRIME KING** TO WORRY ABOUT!

YES, WE MIGHT AS WELL PREPARE FOR TROUBLE! WE'LL BE HEARING A LOT ABOUT THE **KING OF THE CATS!**



AND **BATMAN'S** WORDS ARE INDEED PROPHETIC, AS FUTURE HEADLINES SHOUT OF THE **CAT KING'S ESCAPADES!**



AND, ONE MORNING, SHORTLY AFTER...

I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A TALK WITH SELINA KYLE, **ROBIN!** AS THE EX-**CATWOMAN**, SHE MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOME TIPS ABOUT FIGHTING THE **KING OF THE CATS!**

GOOD IDEA **BATMAN!**



LATER, IN SELINA'S SHOP...

WELL, SELINA, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR IMITATOR?

I SUPPOSE IF I WERE STILL A CRIMINAL, I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MEETING HIM! YOU MUST ADMIT, HE IS A DARING SCOUNDREL!



JUST THEN...

FLOWERS FOR MISS SELINA KYLE! OHH, GOLLY... BATMAN AND ROBIN! GEE WHIZ!



AND AFTER THE AWED BOY LEAVES...

YOU LOOK FLUSTERED, SELINA! DO YOU HAVE A SECRET ADMIRER?

UH...WOULD YOU PLEASE GO NOW...I... I'VE GOT A HEADACHE!

OHNN! I...I...



HMMM...SELINA'S ACTING MIGHTY QUEER! STRANGE... HER ADMIRER SENT HER A BOUQUET OF TIGER LILLIES AND CAT-TAIL REEDS! I WONDER??

WHEN THEY LEAVE THE SHOP...

WHEN SELINA TURNED HER BACK, I TOOK THIS CARD FROM THE FLOWER BOX! LOOK AT THE SIGNED INITIAL, BATMAN!

from one who has always applauded the catwoman's exploits

"K"! THIS CONFIRMS MY SUSPICIONS! THE KING OF THE CATS IS COURTING THE FORMER CATWOMAN!



THAT NIGHT, A MEOWING CAT STROLLS INTO A ROOM IN A GREAT CHEMICAL PLANT...

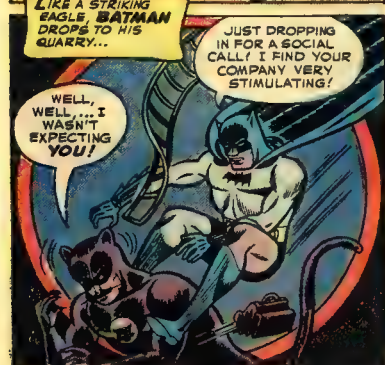
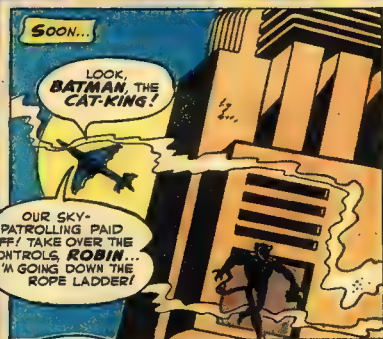
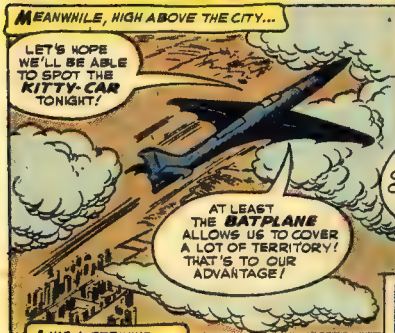
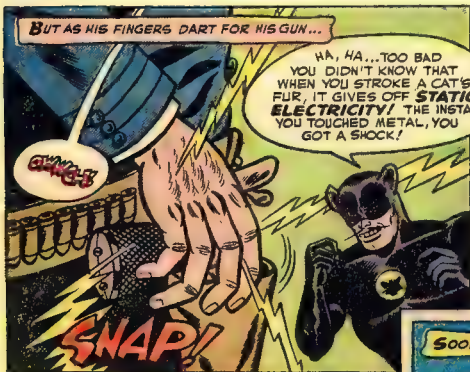
WELL, HERE NOW, LITTLE PUSSY CAT, HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? YOU ARE A PRETTY ONE, AREN'T YOU?



AFFECTIONATELY, THE GUARD STROKES THE ANIMAL'S SOFT, SILKY FUR. A FEW MOMENTS LATER, A DOOR OPENS, AND...

HUH? TH-THE CAT KING!







THE CHASE
LEADS TO A
WATER PIPE,
WHERE...

I CAN
MAKE BETTER
TIME THIS
WAY!

IF I
EVER CATCH
YOU, YOU'LL BE
SERVING
TIME!

AND AS THE **CAT KING** REACHES THE EDGE OF THE
HEIGHTS ON WHICH THE BUILDING STANDS...

STOP!
DON'T BE A
FOOL! THE RIVER
IS OVER 200 FEET
BELOW! NO ONE CAN
MAKE THAT DIVE
AND LIVE!

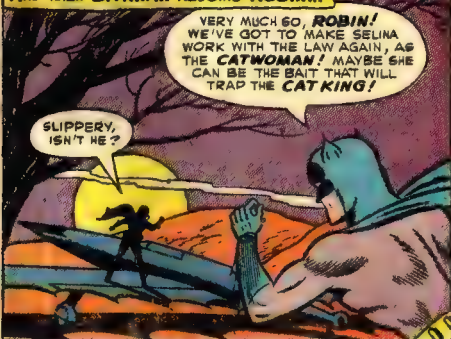
YOU FORGET, **BATMAN**...
I'VE GOT **NINE LIVES**.
LIKE A CAT! I'M WILLING
TO RISK ONE OF THEM!

GRABBING A HUGE BLOCK OF LOOSE
STONE, THE CUNNING CRIMINAL STEPS
INTO EMPTY SPACE!

OF COURSE! HE USED AN
OLD CIRCUS TRICK! THE HEAVY
BLOCK OF STONE ACTS LIKE A
PLUMMET, CARRYING HIS BODY
DOWN STRAIGHT, SO THAT IT
CLEAVES THE WATERS
NEATLY!



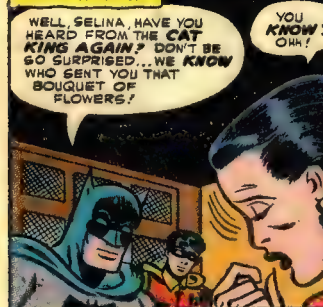
AND WHEN **BATMAN** REJOINS **ROBIN**...



VERY MUCH SO, **ROBIN**!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SELINA
WORK WITH THE LAW AGAIN, AS
THE **CATWOMAN**! MAYBE SHE
CAN BE THE BAIT THAT WILL
TRAP THE **CAT KING**!

SLIPPERY,
ISN'T HE?

ANWHILE LATER...



WELL, SELINA, HAVE YOU
HEARD FROM THE **CAT**
KING AGAIN? DON'T BE
SO SURPRISED... WE **KNOW**
WHO SENT YOU THAT
BOUQUET OF
FLOWERS!

YOU
KNOW?
OH!

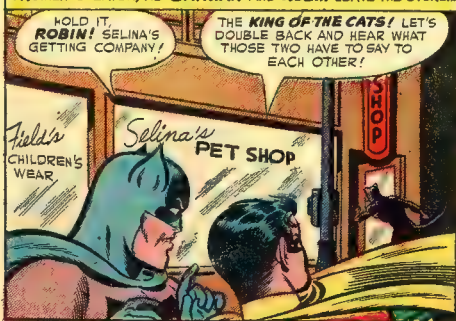
AND AFTER **BATMAN** EXPLAINS HIS MISSION...

OH, **BATMAN**, I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO! I **WANT** TO
WORK WITH THE LAW, BUT...THIS
MAKES THINGS DIFFERENT!
PLEASE GO AND LET ME THINK
THIS OUT! I'LL GIVE YOU MY
ANSWER TOMORROW!

GOOD GRIEF...
LOOK AT HER
WEEPING! WHY...
WHY, I THINK
SHE'S ACTUALLY
FALLEN IN
LOVE WITH THE
CAT KING!



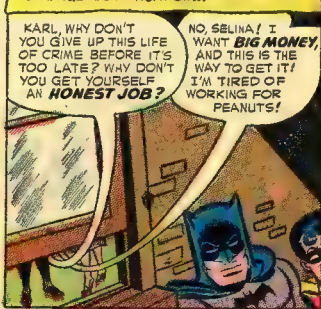
MOMENTS LATER, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** LEAVE THE STORE...



HOLD IT, **ROBIN!** SELINA'S GETTING COMPANY!

THE **KING OF THE CATS!** LET'S DOUBLE BACK AND HEAR WHAT THOSE TWO HAVE TO SAY TO EACH OTHER!

RETURNING CAUTIOUSLY, THEY LISTEN IN ON A STRANGE CONVERSATION...



KARL, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP THIS LIFE OF CRIME BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE? WHY DON'T YOU GET YOURSELF AN **HONEST JOB?**

NO, SELINA! I WANT **BIG MONEY**, AND THIS IS THE WAY TO GET IT! I'M TIRED OF WORKING FOR PEANUTS!



SELINA, QUIT THIS LITTLE SHOP! BECOME THE **CATWOMAN** AGAIN! DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE THE **QUEEN OF CRIME?**

I REMEMBER... ONLY TOO WELL!

THINK OF IT...THE **CRIME QUEEN** AND THE **CAT KING!** YOU AND I...TOGETHER! WE COULD RULE THE UNDERWORLD...THE **KING AND QUEEN OF CRIME!** WHAT DO YOU SAY?

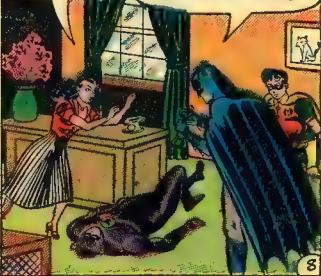
BUT BEFORE SELINA CAN REPLY...



THIS TIME, **CAT KING**, YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOUR CLAWS CLIPPED!

NO, **BATMAN!** YOU CAN'T SEND HIM TO JAIL! I WON'T LET YOU!

SORRY, SELINA...I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT THIS MAN IS A CRIMINAL! HE MUST PAY FOR HIS CRIMES!





ABRUPTLY...

I... WON'T... LET...
YOU... ARREST... HIM!
I'M SORRY!

NICE
GOING, SELINA!
NOW I KNOW
YOU'RE ON MY
SIDE!



**AND WHEN THE CRIMEFIGHTERS RECOVER, THEIR
LIMBS SECURELY BOUND...**

I SAVED YOU ONLY
SO YOU'D HAVE A CHANCE
TO COME TO YOUR SENSES!
I WANT YOU TO RETURN WHAT
YOU'VE STOLEN AND GO
STRAIGHT! PROMISE
ME!

WELL, I'LL THINK
ABOUT IT! THAT'S
ALL THE PROMISE
I'LL MAKE!



SURE, SELINA... I'LL SLEEP ON IT! MATTER
OF FACT... IT'LL BE A **CATNAP!** AND WHEN
I DECIDE, IT WILL BE THE **CROWNING**
ACHIEVEMENT OF MY CAREER! HA, HA!

**LATER, AS SELINA
FREES
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN...**

SELINA, YOU
SURE LOVE THAT
GUY, DON'T YOU?

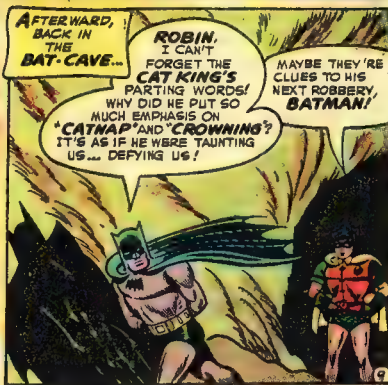
WELL,
ISN'T IT
NATURAL?

NATURAL?
I SUPPOSE SHE
THINK IT'S NATURAL
TO LOVE A CRIMINAL
WHO IS SO MUCH
LIKE SHE USED
TO BE! IT'S SO
BEEERIE... A **CAT-
WOMAN**... IN LOVE
WITH A **CAT KING!**



YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I
LET HIM ESCAPE, DON'T
YOU? I WANT HIM TO GIVE
HIMSELF UP VOLUNTARILY!
I WANT HIM TO MAKE HIS
OWN DECISION! THAT'S THE
ONLY WAY HE'LL EVER
REFORM!

PERHAPS!
BUT I HOPE YOU'RE
NOT MAKING A
MISTAKE, SELINA!



**AFTERWARD,
BACK IN
THE
BAT-CAVE...**

ROBIN,
I CAN'T
FORGET THE
CAT KING'S
PARTING WORDS!
WHY DID HE PUT SO
MUCH EMPHASIS ON
"CATNAP" AND **"CROWNING"**?
IT'S AS IF HE WERE TAUNTING
US... DEFYING US!

MAYBE THEY'RE
CLUES TO HIS
NEXT ROBBERY,
BATMAN!

THEN, AS BATMAN'S EYE RESTS ON THE MORNING PAPERS...

OF COURSE! "CATNAP"...**"CROWNING"**... HE WAS PUNNING! DON'T YOU SEE... HE'S GOING TO **KIDNAP THE KING OF BEASTS...** "CATNAP" THAT FABULOUS **LION!**

RARE BLACK LION

BOUGHT BY MILLIONAIRE FOR PRIVATE ZOO.

BLACK LION IS ONLY THIRD OF SPECIES EVER TO BE BORN.

THE PURCHASE PRICE WAS PROBABLY WELL OVER \$25,000.

ACCURATELY THE AIR RIFLE LOBS A PELLET AT THE LION'S HEAD, AND...

HA! ONE PELLET DID THE JOB! NOW I'LL OPEN THE CAGE, AND TAKE THE UNCONSCIOUS LION TO MY TRUCK! HA, HA... THEY'LL PAY A FAT RANSOM TO GET HIM BACK!

HOURS LATER, A FIGURE MOVING WITH CURIOUS, CAT-LIKE GRACE, APPROACHES THE PRIVATE ZOO...

I HAVE TWO **KNOCKOUT GAS PELLETS** IN THIS GUN! I HOPE THEY'RE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB!

AT THAT MOMENT...

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THAT CAGE! **CAT KING!** A PRISON CELL IS PRETTY MUCH LIKE IT!

BATMAN!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE UNFORESEEN, AS **ROBIN** TRIPS, AND...

SORRY TO DO THIS...BUT YOU'VE GOT TO EXPECT AN OFF-DAY ONCE IN A WHILE!

CRASH!

CLUNK!

THEN, WITH THE VENGEFUL **BATMAN** IN HOT PURSUIT... THE BANDIT KING FLEES DOWN THE RAMP LEADING TO THE LOWER CAGES...

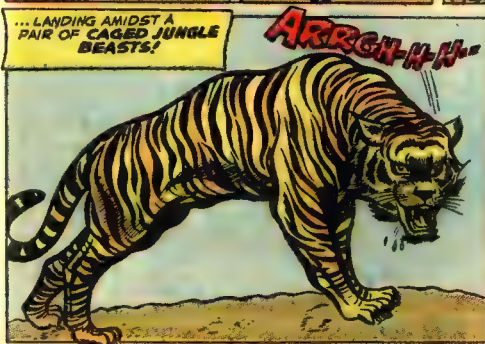
SAVAGELY, THE TWO FINALLY LOCK IN BATTLE, THEIR FISTS TRADING HARD BLOWS...



AND AT THAT INSTANT, SOMETHING FAULTY IN THE FENCE-SUPPORTS WEAKENS...THE TWO COMBATANTS DROP TO THE HIGH, OPEN TOP CAGES...



...LANDING AMIDST A PAIR OF CAGED JUNGLE BEASTS!



HELPLESSLY, THE DAZED MEN WATCH THE SNARLING ANIMALS APPROACH...WHILE UP ABOVE, ANOTHER FIGURE WATCHES WITH HORRIFIED EYES...THE CATWOMAN!

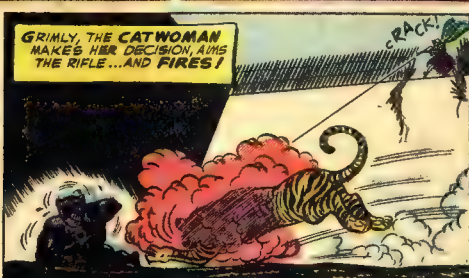
OH! I ARRIVED TOO LATE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SAVE ONE WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE OTHER!



THERE'S ONE GAS PELLET IN HERE... ONLY ONE! IF I GAS BATMAN'S TIGER, KARL WILL DIE... IF I GAS KARL'S TIGER, BATMAN WILL DIE! WHOM SHALL I CHOOSE! WHOM??

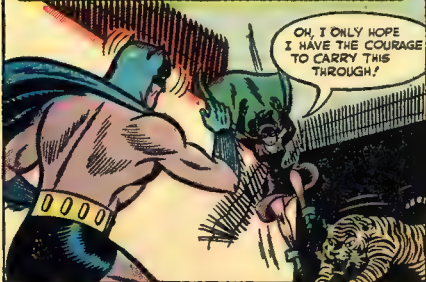


GRIMLY, THE CATWOMAN MAKES HER DECISION, AIMS THE RIFLE...AND FIRES!

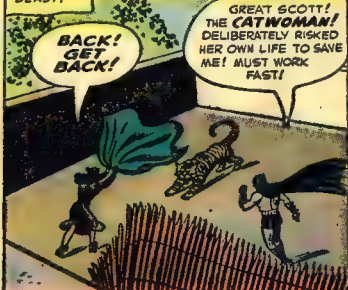


WITH DEADLY ACCURACY THE LIFE-SAVING GAS PELLET STRIKES THE BEAST STALKING THE KING OF CATS! IS IT POSSIBLE? HAS THE CATWOMAN RETURNED TO A LIFE OF CRIME...AND MURDER?

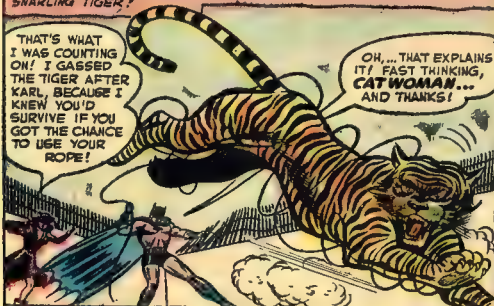
BUT SUDDENLY, SHE LEAPS INTO THE CAGE OF THE TIGER ABOUT TO MAUL BATMAN!



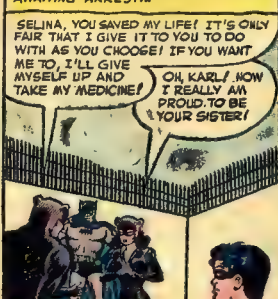
WHIPPING OFF HER CLOAK, THE CATWOMAN SNAPS IT INTO THE FACE OF THE SURPRISED BEAST!



A FLIP OF HIS WRIST, A TUG OF HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES, AND BATMAN'S SILKEN LASSO WINDS LIKE A TIGHT WEB ABOUT THE SNARLING TIGER!

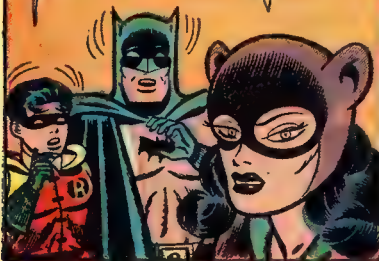


LATER, IT IS A SURPRISED GROUP THAT FINDS THE CAT KING HUMBLER AWAITING ARREST...



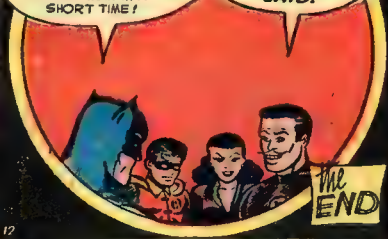
Y-YOUR SISTER?

OF COURSE! I THOUGHT YOU KNEW! THAT'S WHY I HAD TO HELP HIM! HE'S MY BROTHER! IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I SHOULD WANT HIM TO REFORM AS I DID!

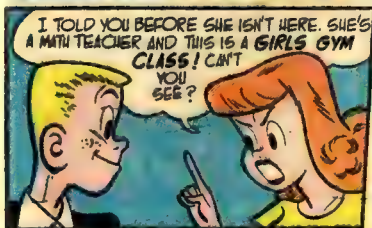
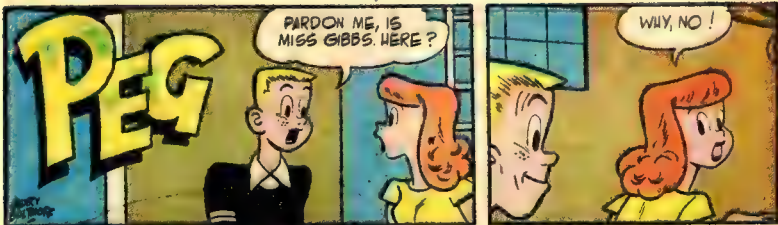


THAT EXPLAINS A LOT OF THINGS, NOW THAT I THINK BACK! WELL, LET'S HOPE YOUR LOYALTY TO YOUR BROTHER PAYS OFF! KARL, YOU CAN LEARN A USEFUL TRADE IN PRISON...AND WITH TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, YOU CAN BE A FREE MAN IN A SHORT TIME!

FOR SELINA'S SAKE, I'LL TRY TO GO STRAIGHT! IF THE CATWOMAN CAN REFORM, THEN SO CAN THE MAN ONCE CALLED THE KING OF THE CATS!

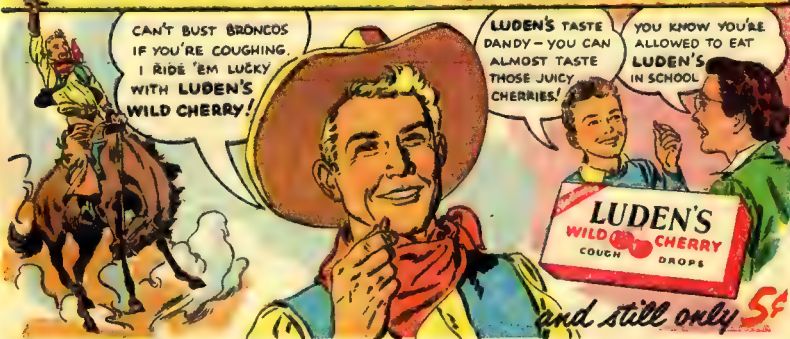


THE END



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WHAT TOWN HAS **MORE** OIL-
WELLS THAN INHABITANTS?



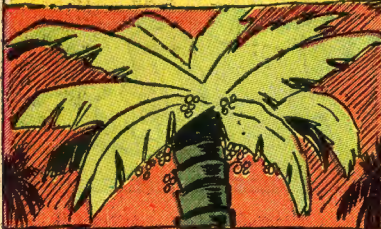
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